Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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17 DAYS
left before the start of the new fiscal year

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Post-War Japan
The final presentation in a series of essays relating to the Pacific War of 65 years distant.

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Power rate hike starting Oct.

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A new power rate for the next six months is expected to take effect starting Oct. 1 after both the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the regulatory consultant of the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission agreed to endorse a higher rate for all CUC customers.

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GOP scores Kilili's criticism of Steele

» Fitial also greeted RNC chair upon his arrival on Saipan

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Republican Party of the CNMI responded yesterday to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's criticism of Republican National Committee chair Michael Steele's statement on President Obama's new economic stimulus proposal.

At the same time, it was disclosed yesterday that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial also welcomed Steele upon his arrival at the Saipan International Airport on Wednesday night. Steele left Saipan early morning the following day.

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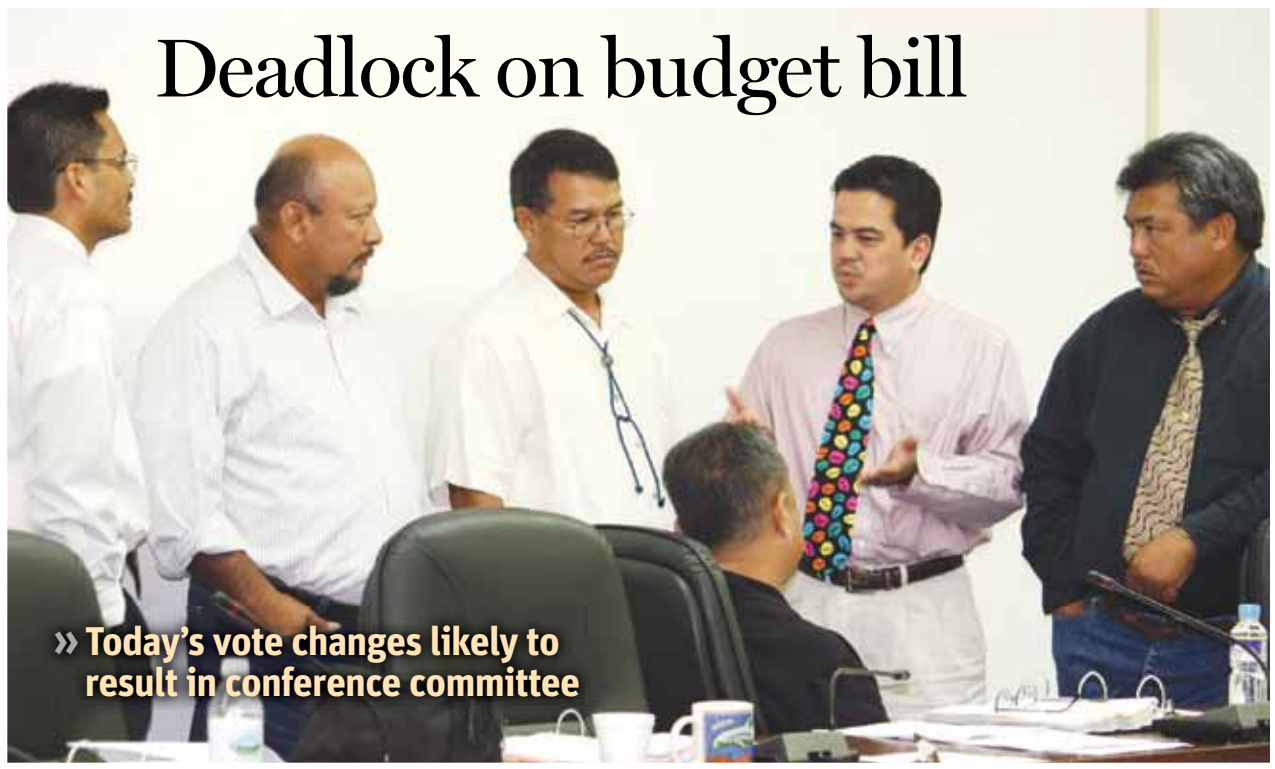
Deadlock on budget bill



» Today's vote changes likely to result in conference committee

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Members of the minority Republican bloc who support the Senate version of the budget bill gather beside Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan), seated, who voted against it, after the voting that resulted in a 9-9 deadlock during yesterday morning's session. The session resumes this afternoon, and the ruling Covenant Party says the scale will now tip in their favor.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The House of Representatives was deadlocked yesterday on a motion to reject the Senate-amended budget bill, with the 9-9 votes crossing party lines, and with two members absent.

Acting Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan) called for recess until 1:30pm today, immediately after the deadlock.

But it's likely the scale will be tipped in favor of rejecting the Senate's substitute budget bill because of a vote change and if one of two absent members will show up today.

If and when the Senate version of the budget bill is rejected, the House and

See DEADLOCK on Page 4

HOW THEY VOTED

How House members voted on a motion to reject the Senate version of the FY 2011 budget bill

YES

1. Rep. Ray Basa *(Cov-Saipan)*
2. Rep. Eli Cabrera *(R-Saipan)*
3. Floor leader George Camacho *(Ind-Saipan)*
4. Rep. Frederick Deleon Guerrero *(Ind-Saipan)*
5. Rep. Rafael Demapan *(Cov-Saipan)*
6. Rep. Sylvester Iguel *(Cov-Saipan)*
7. Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro *(Cov-Saipan)*
8. Rep. Joseph Palacios *(R-Saipan)*
9. Rep. Ray Palacios *(Cov-Saipan)*

NO

1. Minority leader Diego Benavente *(R-Saipan)*
2. Rep. Trenton Conner *(R-Tinian)*
3. Rep. Frank Dela Cruz *(R-Saipan)*
4. Rep. Joe Deleon Guerrero *(R-Saipan)*
5. Rep. Tony Sablan *(R-Saipan)*
6. Rep. Teresita Santos *(Ind-Rota)*
7. Rep. Ray Tebuteb *(R-Saipan)*
8. Rep. Stanley Torres *(Ind-Saipan)*
9. Rep. Ray Yumul *(R-Saipan)*

Absent

1. Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio *(Cov-Saipan)*
2. Rep. Edmund Villagomez *(Cov-Saipan)*

Admin slams Kilili for 'misleading info'

The Fitial administration excoriated U.S Delegate Gregorio "Killili" Sablan yesterday in a scathing statement that accused him of grabbing credit for some of the federal dollars now coming the CNMI's way and for his harsh criticism of the administration.

"While it is understandable that our current delegate wishes to take credit wherever he possibly can, for anything that has benefited the CNMI, the delegate should bear a responsibility to paint a clear picture for those in the commu-

See ADMIN on Page 4

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Local

Drunk man allegedly rapes common-law wife

An intoxicated man allegedly raped his common-law wife at her sister's apartment in Garapan early Sunday morning.

Jesse Iglecias Lisua, 27, was arrested in Koblerville that same morning for rape, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace. Bail was set at $50,000 cash.

Preliminary hearing is on Sept. 21, 2010, at 1:30pm. Assistant public defender Michael Brown was appointed counsel for Lisua.

The victim reportedly had minor injuries in her upper lip and scratches on the nose and elbow. She also complained of pain in her left cheek. She was taken to the Commonwealth Health Center.

Detective Catherine Pangelinan stated in her report that a police officer responded to the apartment of the victim's sister, located behind Gold Beach Hotel in Garapan, after receiving a call about an assault and battery case.

Police investigation showed that Lisua, the victim, her sister, and her sister's boyfriend had been drinking at the apartment Saturday evening when Lisua's behavior prompted the victim's sister and her boyfriend to ask him to leave.

After Lisua left, the victim proceeded to Islander Club between 1am and 1:30am where she claimed to have consumed four cans of beer. The victim then went back to her sister's apartment to rest but later woke up and saw Lisua already inside the room.

The victim said she was shocked because they made sure they locked the main door to prevent Lisua from getting in.

The victim tried to get out of bed, but Lisua allegedly pinned and raped her.

Lisua allegedly accused the victim of having an affair and slapped her several times.

The screaming and yelling awakened the victim's sister. The sister knocked on the door and shouted at Lisua to leave the apartment.

Lisua later left. The two have a 6-month old baby. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority

Tourism is everybody's business.

What are the Benefits of Tourism?

Part II

In the May 2001 newspaper article "Tourism Works for the CNMI," the Marianas Visitors Authority delineated a number of the benefits of tourism. Many of these benefits are still in effect today.

In many small island nations, local governments view the travel and tourism industry as the major vehicle to develop and grow economically. The Northern Marianas community should understand the economic benefits that the tourism industry brings. The major economic gains are:

- **Tourism acts as an export industry by generating new revenues from other countries.** Tourism is considered an export because visitors from other countries buy the Northern Marianas "tourism experience"—such as hotel stays, meals, and tours- with money earned outside the Northern Marianas.
- **The visitor expenditures increase the general level of economic activities in Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, both directly and indirectly.** Some examples of this may be the wholesalers or farmers who sell food to hotels, or the companies that sell diesel or gasoline to water sports operators.
- **The tourism industry creates a diversity of jobs and incomes for local residents.** From entry level positions to managers, the tourism industry offers a variety of employment opportunities to qualified individuals.
- **The local industry contributes significantly to the CNMI government's tax coffer.** Currently, the tourism industry contributes $50-million annually in tax revenue, which helps pay for services such as public health, education, and public safety.

The visitors industry continuously improves the CNMI government's balance of payments through increasing foreign earnings.

In addition to economic benefits, tourism has also spurred the **improvement of infrastructure**—including the construction of an international airport linking the islands to the world—and resulted in a **higher standard of living**, more **educational opportunities**, and support for **environmental conservation, preservation projects,** and **sustainable development**.

Learn more about the Northern Marianas visitors industry by visiting the Marianas Visitors Authority website at www.mymarianas.com.

HAFA ADAI & TIROW WAY

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

BOE approves laptop policy agreement

» Rejects principal's discretion to take away equipment when student is failing

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Board of Education adopted Friday the One Laptop Policy agreement that the Public School System will enforce among all recipients of the brand new Latitude 2100 netbooks it gave away to secondary students last month.

The agreement junked a proposal that gives school principals the power to take away the laoptops when students are failing in their class.

Board member Herman T. Guerrero pointed out the need for students to keep the equipment to aid in their learning.

"The whole purpose of this is to use it as a tool for learning. But if you take it away from them, I have issues with that," Guerrero said during Friday's deliberation.

However, part of the approved agreement gives principals the discretion to let the students keep the laptops during summer.

"If the school asks them to return these laptops on summer time, they have to," said board member Tanya King.

If laptops are damaged or need to be repaired, students must report it to PSS central, which will contact Megabyte, the vendor responsible for repairs.

In case of stolen laptops, recipients would be held accountable, which could also result in the holding back of a student's records.

A total of 5,200 brand new Latitude 2100 netbooks were distributed to 7th to 12th graders in private and public high schools in the Commonwealth.

The 5,200 netbooks cost $2.2 million, of which $1.7 million was sourced from the state fiscal stabilization fund, while the balance came from the ARRA consolidated grant.

The laptops are equipped with camera, wi-fi, and touch screen.

Man who sliced off trader's finger pleads no contest

The suspect in the attack on a businessman who lost his left middle finger in a fight in Chalan Lau Lau entered a plea of no contest yesterday in the Superior Court.

The jury trial of Ying Xiu Wen was supposed to start yesterday, but he and his counsel, assistant public defender Richard Miller, instead agreed to plead no contest to two counts of assault and battery.

The plea agreement recommends a prison term of 12 months to 15 months, without the possibility of parole, with credit for time already served.

Wen's sentencing is on Thursday at 10am.

The Office of the Attorney General had charged the 41-year-old Wen with two counts of assault with a dangerous weapon, two counts of assault and battery, and two counts of disturbing the peace.

The case stems from an incident on March 3, 2010, when Wen assaulted Ming Hao Li and his wife, Shun Nu Li, during a birthday party at the Tai Yang Restaurant.

Ming Hao Li is the operator of Tai Yang Restaurant.

Detective Simon T. Manacop stated in his report, according to witnesses, Ming Hao Li, Shun Nu Li, Wen, and another woman had been drinking when, during an argument, Wen ran into the kitchen and grabbed a sashimi knife.

During the struggle, Ming Hao Li's left middle finger was completely cut off.

Wen fled, but his van got into an accident. He was then arrested. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMCss 9910, the State Rehabilitation Council will hold its FY'10 4th General Membership on Wednesday, September 15, 2010 at the Azucena I, Fiesta Resort and Spa at 8:30am-2:00pm. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Review and adoption of Agenda
IV. Welcome and recognition of new appointed members
V. Introduction of Guest from Washington State, DSB
VI. Review and adoption of the FY'10 3rd Meeting Minutes (08/20/10)
VII. Reports
a. OVR Director
b. SRC Chair
VIII. Election of Officers
IX. Consumer Forum
X. Announcements
XI. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters, are asked to call 322-6537 (voice) or 322-6449 (TTY). Please contact Elvira Seman two days in advance for necessary arrangements.

/s/ Jesus M. Elameto
CHAIRMAN

Publication of this notice is paid for by federal funds made possible by the United States Department of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS).

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ADMIN

From Page 1

nity," said Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

Fitial particularly took Sablan to task for what he said are false claims that federal funds have come the CNMI's way because of Sablan's work in Congress.

"We have people in the CNMI who work day in and day out to ensure that the CNMI receives the assistance we need, dealing with technical issues and the intricacies of managing various programs. Receiving federal funding is not as simplistic as Kilili makes it out to be. We don't just get additional money because his office writes a letter to a presidential appointee. Things are just not that simplistic and I challenge him to prove that the CNMI has received even a dollar to date because he simply asked for it," said Fitial.

Sablan recently took a stab at the Fitial administration for not taking action on his letter to the governor concerning the increase in USDA funding for the Nutrition Assistance Program.

"While the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs is tasked with negotiating the annual NAP funding levels, they have had to work with the CNMI Department of Commerce to develop the statistical information required by the USDA as a means to increase funding. The USDA requires complete and accurate statistical figures, not just writing a letter as suggested by the current delegate," the statement said.

An after-hours e-mail requesting comment from Sablan was not immediately returned Monday evening.

CPI for Tinian and Rota

Commerce Secretary Michael Ada said he had already raised this issue last year when he made known the funding needs of the CNMI to formulate separate Consumer Price Indexes for Tinian and Rota.

"This is a problem that I brought to our delegate's attention back in April of 2009. ...I told our delegate that we needed funding to conduct separate CPI's for the islands of Tinian and Rota for purposes of increasing NAP funding and we required about $60,000.00. This was an issue that DCCA and my department worked on prior to Kilili being sworn in. He offered no assistance, so my office had to leverage lapsed grant funding we had on another grant to begin the process. While I only had enough money to pay for half of the study, I also applied for a technical assistance grant from OIA to cover the rest. To date, we have not heard back from OIA on an approval of this grant. This is a technical issue that is preventing the CNMI from negotiating a higher rate for NAP, not any lack of follow-through on the part of the administration as Kilili is claiming," said Ada.

Tactics for political gain

In taking credit for a number of ARRA related grants that have come to the CNMI, Sablan repeatedly denies giving credit to the people within the administration that actually applied for the money, Fitial said.

"Kilili makes every effort to shift credit away from anyone within the local government and give credit where absolutely none is due. He fails to realize that this tactic lessens the faith of the community in the local government's ability," stated Fitial.

He accused Sablan of being preoccupied "in his quest to claim fame at the expense of the hard work of ordinary government employees."

"Recognizing that there is no overnight cure to the Commonwealth's challenges in sight, we are certainly trying our best. The question that should be asked is if Kilili is really as good as he says he is? Anyone in our community can see the work that our public servants do, but who is in Washington D.C. to verify that our delegate is doing what he claims he is?" said press secretary Angel Demapan. ***(PR)***

POWER RATE

From Page 1

The proposal submitted Friday to the commission indicates that the new power rate will cover the period from Oct. 1, 2010, through March 30, 2011.

It was recommended that the levelized energy adjustment clause, or LEAC rate, be increased from $0.24446 per kilowatt-hour to $0.25338 per kilowatt-hour—an increase of about 1 percent over the existing LEAC charge.

For a residential customer consuming 500 kWh per month, this will result in an overall increase of about 3.5 percent—or $4.46 per month. This means a typical monthly electric bill of $125.73 will increase to $130.19.

Residential customers using 1,000 kWh and paying a monthly charge of $247.96 would see their bill increase to $256.88, reflecting the 3.6 percent hike.

For residential customers using 1,500 kWh, the current charge of $436.18 per month would increase to $449.57—an increase of 3.1 percent.

CUC commercial customers will also incur a 2.7-percent increase in their monthly charge. For those using 1,500 kWh, their existing charge of $503.35 would become $516.74; those using 10,000 kWh would see their bill increase from $3,312.13 to $3,401.49. Commercial customers that use up 20,000 kWh will pay a monthly charge of $6,795.30 starting next month, up 2.7 percent from the existing charge of $6,616.79.

Government customers would also see a 2.7-percent increase in their monthly power billing.

Government customers using 5,000 kWh will have to start paying $1,729.58 on Oct. 1, from the existing $1,684.95 monthly bill.

Those utilizing 20,000 kWh will be charged $6,895.30 monthly from existing rate of $6,716.79. Users of 100,000 kWh will pay $34,445.83 from present billing of $33,553.26.

Factors impacting rate increase

According to CUC and Georgetown Consulting Group, fuel oil over the course of six months is forecast to range in price between $2.13 and $2.19 per gallon Singapore spot. In addition to the Singapore spot commodity price, it is necessary to add appropriate fees for transportation, insurance, and handling fees.

They also remain concerned that CUC currently employs only one power production technology: reciprocating diesel engines that burn a single fuel—high quality diesel oil—which is one of the most expensive oil products available.

As a result, no fuel or technology diversification exists and CUC remains totally dependent on diesel fuel oil.

DEADLOCK

From Page 1

Senate will go into a conference committee.

If Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) makes it to today's session, his colleagues in the majority bloc expect him to vote "yes" to reject the Senate's budget bill version.

Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan) won't be back on island until this weekend.

Moreover, Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), who voted "no" on rejecting the Senate version of the $132 million budget bill, said yesterday he will change his vote to "yes" today after further review of the spending measure.

"I will change my vote, and I will vote yes to reject it, because of discrepancies. They took away some $2 million from utility payments and split it between Rota and Tinian so that each will get additional $1 million each. If we don't pay our government utility bills, customers will end up paying more," Torres told *Saipan Tribune* in a phone interview.

He said he initially favored the Senate's amendment to give zero funding to the Saipan Zoning Office, but he said he would like to give the office at least six more months to operate.

The Senate wanted an eight-hour work cut every pay period, which cuts into half the House and the Fitial administration's expected 16-hour cut every pay period.

Some members of the majority bloc support the Senate's eight-hour cut instead of a 16-hour cut, but they object to the other amendments.

Moreover, the Senate rejected the House proposal to raise the annual discretionary funding of each lawmaker to $130,000, from the current $86,796. The Senate capped the amount at $86,000 a year.

The Senate version of the budget bill also increases the leadership account, from the House-proposed $76,330, to $120,330. The speaker earlier said he wants the leadership account to be $400,000, the maximum allowed by the Constitution.

Voting

It was House floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan) who made the motion to reject House Bill 17-96, House Substitute 2, Senate Substitute 1.

Camacho said he will offer the same motion when session resumes today.

Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan), who surprisingly voted "yes" on the rejection vote, said he will further review the Senate's version of the budget bill.

"I will sleep on it," he said. The minority bloc tried to ask him to reconsider his vote.

He was one of two Republicans who voted differently from most of the minority bloc. The other one was Cabrera.

Just like Torres, Palacios said he is concerned that the Senate took away money from other programs like government utility payments and gave more funding to Rota and Tinian.

Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota), who usually votes with the majority bloc, said her vote of "no" on rejecting the Senate version of the bill will remain the same.

Before voting yesterday, Santos read a prepared statement applauding the Senate's version of the budget bill, which increases the number of Rota's full-time employees and appropriation, but raised some issues she hopes will be resolved in a conference committee.

Her concerns include the Senate cut in utility payments from $9.115 million to $6.574 million, and the transfer of former immigration employees to other government agencies but without additional FTEs in Appendix A to reflect the allowed transfers. Santos also said the Senate's amendment giving the Rota Municipal Council chair the expenditure authority with the concurrence of the members would more than likely create internal conflict or infighting among members.

'Senate version is most rational of all'

Dela Cruz, during discussion on the motion to reject the Senate version of the budget bill, said the Senate version is the "most rational and equitable" of all versions of the budget bill he has seen.

He cited the Senate's giving of additional funding to Northern Marianas College, among other things, for it to meet the Maintenance-of-Effort agreement between the CNMI governor and the U.S. Department of Education.

Benavente applauded the Senate for giving more funding to NMC, the Public School System and the Judiciary and for not raising the discretionary funding of lawmakers.

While he has concerns with some Senate amendments to the budget plan, he said the more important matter is to have a budget that is fair and is passed on time.

Benavente said if the House passes the Senate-amended revenue generating bill, then it could make up for the differences in proposed number of work hours to be cut every pay period.

Yumul reminded his colleagues that the every single day the Legislature fails to pass a budget means one day toward a government shutdown.

A constitutional amendment ratified last year calls for government shutdown if there is no budget passed before the start of a new fiscal year on Oct. 1.

GOP

From Page 1

Fitial was a Republican before forming his own Covenant Party.

Juan I. Tenorio, chair of the Republican Party of the CNMI, thanked Fitial "for being part of the welcoming party to meet Mr. Steele at the airport" and for "extending the island spirit and hospitality to Chairman Steele."

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when asked for comment, confirmed Fitial's presence at the airport "to greet and welcome" Steele.

Steele came to Saipan on Sept. 8 to publicly endorse Babauta as the CNMI's nonvoting delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Prior to coming to Saipan, Steele also visited other U.S. territories such as Guam to promote Republican unity.

Tenorio said it is "sad and regrettable" that Sablan, who is seeking reelection in November, would lash out at the "national political figure in the way he did against Mr. Michael Steele."

"Congressman Sablan should know better. Mr. Steele did not come to Saipan to pretend he knows the CNMI better than anyone. He came to learn about the CNMI and to share his views about Washington and about the national elections that is sweeping across the country in favor of the Republicans," Tenorio said in a statement yesterday.

Steele is the first RNC chair to step foot on Saipan or the CNMI. It was also his first visit to Saipan.

Who is out of touch?

Steele, in an interview with reporters on Wednesday night, said "another $50 billion stimulus" is not something that is necessary right now.

Sablan's camp slammed Steele for the statement, saying he's "out of touch with CNMI realities."

Tenorio said "understandably, Mr. Steele is out of touch with the CNMI because he is not from here."

"Mr. Steele focused on Washington perhaps because our very own delegate is out of touch with Washington. He cannot even get along with other Democrats. Congressman Eni Faleomavaega (of American Samoa) and Congresswoman Madeleine Bordallo (of Guam) are cases in point. Congressman Kilili has alienated both," Tenorio said.

He said it is "not helpful to alienate national political leaders when we need everyone's help in Washington."

"It's about leadership and the ability to work with members of Congress on both sides of aisle, a trait that is totally lacking on the part of Congressman Kilili," Tenorio added.

Babauta and Sablan, who is popularly known as Kilili, are among the four delegate candidates. The two other candidates are former lieutenant governor Jesse Borja of the Democratic Party and former House floor leader Joseph Camacho of the ruling Covenant Party.

Tenorio said it does no good to attack Steele other than cast a negative image about the CNMI, "especially coming from one who represents the CNMI in Washington, D.C."

"If the chairman of the Democratic National Committee or the Independent National Committee, if there is one, visits the CNMI, I will certainly extend the good island spirit and hospitality to that person rather than run him out of town," Tenorio added.

Sablan ran as an independent in 2008, and later caucused with the Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The Sablan campaign earlier said: "Steele's remarks while on a touch-and-go mission to Saipan to collect money and support for his run for re-election as GOP chairman reveal a man who doesn't know what it's like to live without 24-hour drinking water."

Steele earlier said: "We don't need another stimulus. We have been stimulated to the point where nothing's happening and so the reality of it is we've already spent $863 million and we don't see the jobs, we don't see the small business getting the kind of support and incentives that they need to create the jobs that the American people want."

President Obama's "second stimulus" proposes a $100 billion tax credit for businesses and $50 billion on infrastructure spending. These proposals have yet to be approved by what many believe is an increasingly partisan Congress that is expected to heavily tilt Republican in November.

Proposed members of budget bill conference committee named

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives and the Senate have already prepared a short list of proposed members to a conference committee on a fiscal year 2011 budget bill should the House reject today the Senate version of the $132 million spending package.

House floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan) said the House tries to minimize the number of conferees.

As of yesterday, he said the proposed members from the House are Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ramon Basa (Cov-Saipan), Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan), and Rep. Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan).

Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota), when asked for comment, said he would like to have the same number of conferees from the Senate.

He said his proposed list of conferees includes Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota), Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian), and Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan).

Manglona said not only are these three members of the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee, but also represent the three islands of Rota, Tinian and Saipan.

A conference committee will be called if the House and Senate are deadlocked on a fiscal year 2011 budget. However, they only have a few days left to work on a $132 million spending package that is acceptable to both.

NEWLY COMMISSIONED
On Sept. 10, 2010, Paul Manglona Jr. was commissioned as an ensign in the U.S. Navy after three months of training at Navy Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island. This rigorous program, ran by Marine drill instructors and Navy Recruit Division Commanders, is designed to transform civilians into leaders in the U.S. Navy. Manglona has been designated a Civil Engineer Corps Officer and will be stationed out of Port Hueneme, California. His first assignment is with the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 40, whose mission involves building roads, airfields, schools, hospitals, and other types of infrastructure. NMCB 40 has worked on projects all over the world, from the jungles of various Pacific islands to the deserts of Afghanistan and Iraq. Manglona graduated from Case Western Reserve University in May 2010 with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering. He attended high school at Fr. Duenas Memorial School in Mangilao, Guam. Manglona is the son of Paul and Lydia Manglona of Rota.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Committee mum about status of search for new NMC prexy

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College committee that has been tasked to look for the college's next president claims to have "several" applicants in line but has kept mum on the actual number of applicants.

"The Presidential Search Committee received several applications from both on island and off island candidates. The PSC has reviewed the applications. The PSC is now beginning its first stage of reference and background checks of the applicants," the committee said in a statement to the *Saipan Tribune*.

Upon completion of these checks, it said the applications will be reviewed and finalized prior to contacting the top candidates for interviews.

Saipan Tribune tried to seek more information about the total number of applicants, but even board chair Janet H. King is clueless, saying she is not a member of the panel.

In an earlier email from the committee chair Maria Paz Younis, she said all information for media publication is decided by the group's public relations committee.

The vacancy announcement for NMC president was initially opened on July 9 through Aug. 9 but was reset to Aug. 31. Since then, the committee has issued no press statements about the status of its search. The salary for the next NMC president is $80,000 per annum plus benefits.

The committee earlier said it extended the deadline to get a good pool of candidates and give them ample time to prepare and submit documents.

Based on the timeframe to hire a new president, the search committee is expected to recommend a final candidate for board action this month.

The committee did not respond to *Saipan Tribune*'s inquiry yesterday if the timeframe remains the same.

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP10-GOV-162

Architectural & Engineering Design for the Tinian Harbor Emergency Repairs

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Capital Improvement Program Office, are soliciting sealed proposals for the Engineering Design Services for the replacement of new bollards, fender system and repairs of the concrete caps at the Tinian Harbor, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Scope of Work (SOW) will be available on September 8, 2010 at the Capital Improvement Office, Office of the Governor. A $25.00 non-refundable fee for the proposal package will be assessed. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining a proposal package. A Pre-Proposal Meeting is scheduled on September 21, 10:00 a.m at the Governor's Conference Room in Capitol Hill. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Ms. Elizabeth Balajadia, CIP Project Manager via email lizb@emchen.com or fax to 670-664-2408 no later than September 24, 2010, 4:30 p.m., local time.

Proposers must submit with their proposal a Project Approach and Schedule of Completion, addressing the the scope of work requirements with details of how the work will be performed and accomplished by consultants, with names of responsible persons identified. Proposers shall also submit a state of qualifications and experience. Proposals shall not exceed twenty five (25) pages. Note that a firm or company that submits as a prime consultant cannot submit as a subconsultant on another proposal. However, subconsultants maybe included in multiple proposals by different consultants.

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Qualification and Experience on similar projects (25%)
2. Project Approach – (25%)
3. Work load and resources to accomplish the work in the required time frame(25%)
4. Past performance with the CNMI Government on similar projects (25%)

Proposals must be sealed and marked **"RFP10-GOV-162, Engineering Design Services for the Tinian Harbor Repairs"**. For proposals within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 2:00 p.m., local time September 30, 2010. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitted an Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to submit proposal must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 2:00 p.m. September 30, 2010 and maybe submitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via email to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of the sealed proposals must be marked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal services of the foreign country no later than September 30, 2010 AND must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than October 5, 2010. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any Proposal in the best interest of the Government. All Proposals shall become the property of the Government.

/s/ ELOY S. INOS, Lieutenant Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Procurement and Supply, DOF

$10M hike sought in food stamp grant to cover more recipients

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs is seeking additional federal assistance for the CNMI's Nutrition Assistance Program to cover the increasing number of people who want to avail of food stamps.

DCCA Secretary Melvin Faisao, in a letter Friday to U.S. Department of Agriculture regional administrator Allen Ng, proposes a $10 million increase in the current funding it gets from the agency.

The CNMI's food stamp program got $12.148 million this year.

Faisao said the CNMI needs this amount increased because more people are applying for food stamp benefits on Rota and Tinian.

He cited the imposition of the federal immigration law in the CNMI, along with the declining economic conditions on the islands, for the dramatic increase in the number of people wanting to be included in the food stamp program.

In fiscal year 2009, a total of 7,656 persons representing nearly 3,000 households availed of food stamp assistance. Majority of these clients were from Saipan.

To be eligible for food stamps, the size of a family's benefit is based on its income and certain expenses. The poverty level is higher for bigger families and lower for smaller families.

In the same letter to USDA official, Faiso also asked for the inclusion of the CNMI in the department's State Utility Allowance program to help residents cope with the rising electrical fees. ***(Moneth Deposa)***

NMI writers wanted for anthology

A quartet of local writers from the Northern Mariana Islands is accepting submissions for an upcoming anthology of local writers they are tentatively calling *Stories from Wild Bills Cafe: Life, Love and Spicy Tofu in the Northern Mariana Islands*.

"A number of local writers have been throwing around an idea to create a compilation of local work for years now," said Angelo O'Connor Villagomez. "A group of us have been meeting together over spicy tofu and chiliburgers at Wild Bills these last few months and we've finally decided to put it together."

When asked how long the anthology would be and how many writers would be included, Villagomez said that the book would be "about 200 pages, which will probably fit about 15 -20 writers."

The editors of Wild Bills Café are Jane Mack, Joe Race, Jaime Vergara, and Villagomez.

The inspiration for the name of the anthology comes from Wild Bills Café on Beach Road in Garapan.

"I talked to the owner Bill about the name, and he's allowing us to use it," explained Race, a local novelist and former police officer. "Our idea is to focus the attention on a physical place to ground all the stories."

Race also said that the book would promote the Northern Mariana Islands and might even turn Wild Bills into a destination for tourists, readers, and writers.

"Saipan, Tinian and Rota are home to several dozen newspaper reporters, bloggers, novelists, poets and amateur writers," said Mack, a novelist and lawyer. "There are also a number of writers from the Northern Mariana Islands living and working abroad, but who write about home. These are the people we want to include in this first edition of *Wild Bills*."

Writers interested in submitting work for the anthology can contact the editors at WildBillStories@gmail.com. Submission guidelines are available upon request. Writers whose work is chosen for submission will receive two copies of *Stories from Wild Bills Café*. ***(PR)***

BEFORE THE COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION – ELECTRIC DIVISION **DOCKET 09-1**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT at 9:00 a.m. on September 17, 2010, the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission [Commission] will conduct a public hearing and regulatory workshop at the offices of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, Family Building, Garapan to consider the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation's [CUC] position on the levelized energy adjustment clause [LEAC], which the Commission should be set for the period October 1, 2010 through March 31, 2011. On December 19, 2008, the Commission established a LEAC clause in CUC's tariff by which a semi-annual rate is set and adjusted to enable CUC to recover its projected fuel and related expenses. On May 28, 2010, the Commission established the current rate of $0.24446 per kWh. CUC and the Commission's regulatory consultant have recommended that a new rate of $0.24100 per kWh be established for the upcoming six month period, which is a slight reduction in the current rate. On or before September 11, 2010, CUC's formal LEAC report, which supports the proposed rate, will be posted on the website of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, Public Utilities for public review. Other collateral regulatory matters may also be discussed at the hearing.

At the hearing CUC will also brief the Commission on the status of: a] its accounts receivable; b] its progress in Docket 10-01 in providing operational meters for all commercial and government water customers; c] unmetered wastewater service; and d] discussions with Georgetown regarding regulatory reporting requirements.

The Commission welcomes the public's attendance at the hearing and will also welcome public comments at the conclusion of the hearing. Persons who desire to participate in the hearing pursuant to 4 CMC § 8409(j) should on or before September 12, 2010 file with the Commission at the office of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce an application and offer of proof in accordance with § 8409(j) and Commission Procedural Rule 11(c).

Further information about the hearing and the public's right to participate may be obtained from Commissioner Kyle Calabrese at 670-233-7150.

UNITED STATES
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
COUNCIL on DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
Developmental Disabilities Basic State Grant Program
Bldg. No 1312, Capitol Hill • P.O. Box 502565, Saipan, MP 96950-2565
Tel.: (670) 664-7000 • Fax: (670) 664-7030
Email: p.sablan@cnmicdd.org • Website: www.cnmicdd.org

Notice of Council Meeting

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities is hereby gives notice that it will hold a Special Meeting on Thursday, September 16, 2010 from 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at the Saipan Hyatt Regency Hotel SandCastle.

Agenda

I. Preliminary Matters
- a. Election of Pro-Temp Chairperson
- b. Call to Order
- c. Roll Call
- d. Adoption of Agenda

II. Action Items
- a. Election of Officers
  - 1. Chairperson
  - 2. Vice Chairperson
  - 3. Board Secretary
- b. Propose FY 2010 Budget Amendment
- c. Propose FY 2011 Projected Budget Approval

III. Reports: None

IV. Old Business
- a. Status of Call-a-Ride RFP

V. New Business
- a. Board & Staff Orientation
- b. Personnel Matter: Executive Director's Contract

VI. Executive Session

VII. Miscellaneous

VIII. Next Meeting – October 2010

IX. Adjournment

Note: Pursuant to PL. 8-41, Section 13(a)7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session.

In accordance to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council 3 days in advance at 664-7000. The Public is welcome to submit written or 3 minutes oral comments regarding the agenda above.

/s/ Pamela C. Sablan
Executive Director

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- ☑ ***Gold Earrings*** ..... up to $200
- ☑ ***Dental Gold*** ..... up to $900
- ☑ ***Gold Scrap*** ..... up to $1,250
- ☑ ***Gold Nugget Bracelets*** .. up to $2,500
- ☑ ***Gold Broken Necklaces*** . up to $1,500
- ☑ ***Gold Pens*** ..... up to $400
- ☑ ***Gold Watches*** ..... up to $1,750
- ☑ ***Gold Nugget Rings*** ..... up to $800
- ☑ ***Gold Pocket Watches*** ..... up to $750
- ☑ ***Gold Link Bracelets*** ..... up to $2,500
- ☑ ***Gold Broken Chains*** ..... up to $1,000
- ☑ ***Gold Service Awards*** ..... up to $500
- ☑ ***Gold Broken Bracelets*** .. up to $1,500
- ☑ ***Gold Cuff Links*** ..... up to $300
- ☑ ***Gold Broken Rings*** ..... up to $500
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Suspected 'ice' dealer falls

Authorities arrested Saturday afternoon a suspected methamphetamine or "ice" dealer on Saipan.

Eleno Blas Valdez, 39, was arrested for trafficking of a controlled substance and illegal possession of controlled substance. Bail was set at $35,000 cash.

Preliminary hearing is on Sept. 20, 2010, at 9am. Assistant public defender Michael Brown will serve as Valdez's counsel.

Officer Sean White of the CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force stated in his report that a cooperating source managed to purchase $100 worth of "ice" from Valdez on Aug. 2, 2010.

The following day, White said, some Task Force members met with Valdez and informed him of the "ice" trafficking case against him in an effort to persuade him to become a "cooperating defendant."

White said that Valdez agreed and assisted the task force in investigating his source of "ice" in the CNMI.

On Aug. 20, 2010, White said, the Task Force received a tip from a concerned citizen informing them that there were two local males who were possibly smoking "ice" in the Dandan area near a poker arcade.

A responding detective spotted Valdez and another man sitting in a vehicle and passing a glass pipe to each other.

White said the detective identified himself and got their consent to search the vehicle. He recovered two glass pipes and a small ziplock bag that allegedly contained "ice."

White said the other man tagged Valdez as the source of "ice."

Saipan Tribune opted not to disclose the name of the other person as it is not clear yet whether he is being charged too.

The Task Force arrested Valdez on Saturday afternoon at the Smiling Cove marina. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Suspect on bail nabbed anew for alleged curfew violation

A suspected dealer of methamphetamine or "ice" who was out on bail was arrested anew Saturday in Koblerville for allegedly violating his bail conditions.

Calistro A. Crisostimo, 27, was arrested for contempt of court. Bail was set at $1,000 cash. If he posts bail and again violates his bail conditions, the cash will be forfeited.

Police arrested Crisostimo and three other suspected "ice" dealers on Saipan in July.

On Aug. 5, 2010, the Superior Court allowed Crisostimo's temporary release to his sister as a third party custodian.

The terms and conditions of his release included a daily 7pm to 6am curfew and for the Department of Public Safety to conduct routine random checks on him.

Detective Steven A. Castro stated in his report that last Tuesday at 8:35pm he and two other detectives conducted a routine check and learned from the sister that Crisostimo went by himself to his mother's house within the Koblerville area.

Castro said they proceeded to the mother's house, but learned that the suspect never made it there.

Castro said further investigation also showed that on Sept. 2, 2010, Crisostimo and a known drug dealer were found in possession of marijuana after patrol officers pulled over their vehicle. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Water system operators reminded to report on water quality by Oct. 1

The Division of Environmental Quality's Safe Drinking Water Branch is reminding operators of community water systems to submit their Consumer Confidence Report certification forms to DEQ by Oct. 1, 2010, that they have distributed the CCR to their customers and that the information is correct and consistent with the compliance monitoring data previously submitted to DEQ.

CCR distribution methods include:

■ Mail or deliver one copy of the report to each customer.

-Systems that bill customers by mail should mail a copy of the CCR to each billed customer. Enough copies of the CCR should be sent to single billed customers that have multiple residential units, such as apartment buildings, so that each residential unit can receive a copy.

-Bottle water companies should direct deliver the CCR to each of their customer's homes during home deliver of water, deliver copies of the CCR to retail outlets for distribution with retail sales, and post notices on bulk water retail tanks that the CCR is available upon request.

■ Community water systems serving 500 or fewer people (hotels, garment factories, etc.) may either post the CCR in an appropriate location for their resident workers, or post a notice that the CCR is available upon request.

■ Every community water system must makes its CCR available to the public upon request.

Contact CCR coordinator Julie De la Rosa at 664-8500/01 for any questions regarding the CCR certification. ***(DEQ)***

Can you identify

THE NMI Council for the Humanities, in collaboration with the *Saipan Tribune*, is running a series of photographs in this section every Tuesday and is inviting the public to identify the persons or places featured in this section.

If you can identify the persons or places in the picture, please contact the NMI Council for the Humanities by telephone (235-4785), via email (photo@nmihumanities.org) or by visiting the Council's office located in Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai. These images are from the Council's Historic Photograph Database which is currently being developed to help document the history and cultures of the CNMI.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The previous photo was identified as follows: Woman standing back row: Lourdes Santos Waki. Woman sitting in middle: Remedio Santos Dela Cruz. Children, from left: Ben Santos Borja, Ignacio "Tex" Dela Cruz, Maria Santos Dela Cruz, Juan Santos Dela Cruz (Doi), former chief justice Jose Santos Dela Cruz, Juan Santos Dela Cruz and Victoria Santos Borja Aguon. Identified by: Ben S. Borja, Deborah Pinaula, Pat Camacho, Lupe B. Robinson, Juan Dela Cruz and Del Guerrero.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Belated happy 18th birthday greetings go out to Kulio Cabrera, who celebrated his birthday yesterday, Sept. 13, 2010. Much Love coming from your SHCP 2010 family!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday greetings go out to Sgt. Ray Terlaje, who is celebrating his birthday today, Tuesday, Sept. 14, 2010! Much love coming from your familia and friends on Saipan and Guam.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Sept. 14, 1999

House eyes additional budget for gov't scholarship program

The House Ways and Means Committee is scrambling for additional funds to raise the budget earmarked to the government scholarship program from $2.3 million to over $4 million in the next fiscal year, according to legislators. But the panel has yet to identify revenues from which to source the funding increase, suggesting that other programs may have to be cut to accommodate the needs of local students. "We are looking at a lot of other programs that we feel could live with what they got under the austerity measures," said House Majority Floor Leader Ana S. Teregeyo, a member of the committee.

OPA upholds award of NMC Tinian project to Telesource

The Office of the Public Auditor yesterday upheld the Department of Public Works' awarding of contract to Telesource CNMI. Inc. for the installation of two pre-engineered buildings for the Northern Marianas College's Tinian campus. OPA's opinion on the Telesource contract was contained in a decision in which Public Auditor Leo LaMotte dismissed the protest filed by another bidder, Sablan Construction Company Ltd. Sablan Construction had argued that Telesource should not be awarded the contract for the NMC project "because it failed to timely submit required bid documents." OPA investigation, however, found that the late submission of the required documents "was caused by an error in the distribution of the bid package by DPW."

Sept. 14, 2000

Youth Congress prepares for polls

The Legislative Bureau is currently preoccupied with last-minute preparations for the Sept. 18 3rd CNMI Youth Congress elections where close to 2,000 youths are expected to cast their votes. Youth Congress Clerk Nancy Sanchez expressed hopes this year's youth elections will actually draw more voters compared to last year's dismal turnout. "I have a feeling that things will go smoothly this year. Since more of them actually took time to register, I think those efforts will translate to more votes," said Ms. Sanchez. The bureau recorded over 900 new registrants for next week's youth polls. "There has been an increase in number of new registrants because we conducted the registration both for precinct and school level voters," she said.

Utility officials off to Texas for talks with Enron

Utility officials are expected to travel to Houston, Texas within the next few weeks to brief lawyers they recently hired before the start of formal negotiations with Enron on Saipan's 60-megawatt power project. Laura I. Manglona, vice chair of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board and head of the operations committee, said there is no definite time frame on the process, but disclosed it is being handled "quickly and well." Lawyers from Fulbright & Jaworski have been retained by the government-owned utility corporation to assist the board in reaching an agreement with Enron on the controversial power project.

Sept. 14, 2001

Fitial: Let's stand behind our nation

House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial called on the people of the CNMI to unite in prayer for the victims of Tuesday's terrorist attacks, which led to massive destruction in key centers of commerce and government in the U.S. "We would like to express our support to the countless men and women who are now faced with the daunting task of taking care of the victims and of rebuilding their cities," said Fitial in a media statement. "They have our prayers. We join them in their hour of mourning," said Fitial. Expressing shock and disbelief over the attacks, Fitial said these are the times when "we must get together as a nation and stand up against evil forces that have obviously no regard for the sanctity of human life."

National air travel ban lifted

US Department of Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta has directed the opening of the national airspace at 1am this morning (local time), paving the way for the resumption of flights suspended to and from the US mainland and territories, including the CNMI. After a special meeting with different airlines to iron out flight schedules, Mineta directed the Federal Aviation Administration to open the airports across the country to inbound and outbound flights at about 11am, Eastern Time.

Military buildup, Micronesia Challenge in US Coral Reef Task Force meeting

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Over a hundred local, regional and federal delegates are expected to participate in the two-day U.S. Coral Reef Task Force meeting which is focused on the Micronesia Challenge and the military buildup in the Marianas.

The task force is one of the foremost policy groups guiding national and international coral reef conservation.

The business meeting will be on Wednesday and Thursday at the Saipan World Resort.

CNMI Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho, and Federated States of Micronesia President Emanuel Mori, representing the host jurisdictions, will each deliver welcoming remarks on the first day of the meeting.

American Samoa Gov. Togiola Tulafono and Marshall Islands President Jurelang Zedkaia will also be delivering remarks as members of the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force.

Federal and regional officials and experts will also make presentations about a host of issues.

The presenters include those from the Naval Facilities Engineering Command-Marianas, the Climate Change Workgroup, the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources, the Deep Search Foundation, Florida Institute of Technology, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the U.S. Interior's Ocean and Coastal Activities.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said holding the meeting in the CNMI "gives the CNMI the opportunity to showcase firsthand the conservation efforts that have been undertaken locally."

He said the bulk of off-island delegates to the meeting will be arriving today.

Demapan also said that Fitial will be hosting a dinner reception on Wednesday.

Fran Castro of the Division of Environmental Quality will be joining four others in presenting the progress made by their respective jurisdictions on the Micronesia Challenge.

The Micronesia Challenge is a commitment made in 2006 by regional leadership to effectively conserve at least 30 percent of the near-shore marine resources and 20 percent of the terrestrial resources across Micronesia by 2020.

Participants to the task force meeting will also be briefed on the status of the military buildup in Guam and the CNMI.

First book about NMI marine monument is now available

Last summer, Dennis Chan, anchored to the shores of Saipan his entire life and freshly graduated from Marianas High School, entered an essay contest: *Why I want to visit the Mariana Trench Marine National Monument*. He won. Two weeks later he was on board the 105-foot *Lady Carolina*, skimming the surface of the Philippine Sea headed for Maug.

The story of Dennis' expedition, the first of its kind since the declaration of the Mariana Trench Monument on Jan. 6, 2009, is told in a new book, *Our Northern Islands*.

According to *Saipan Tribune* columnist Jaime Vergara, "Youthful enthusiasm and neophyte adventure jumps out of the pages of this book."

Our Northern Islands also contains over 70 full color photos by Angelo O'Connor Villagomez. Villagomez was the Saipan coordinator of the campaign that led to monument's creation and is a director of the Friends of the Mariana Trench Monument, the organization that spearheaded the expedition.

"Since most people will never get to visit the Northern Islands, it is my hope and Dennis' hope that this book will bring the Northern Islands to the people living on Saipan, Tinian, Rota and around the world," said Villagomez.

There are 10 mostly-uninhabited islands north of the capitol island of Saipan in the Marianas archipelago. They are collectively known as the Northern Islands. Five of the islands are wildlife refuges and the waters surrounding the northernmost three comprise the islands unit of the Mariana Trench Monument.

During the expedition Dennis visited Maug, Agrigan, Pagan, and Sarigan and circumnavigated Uracas, the northernmost point in Micronesia.

Our Northern Islands is available on Amazon.com and Createspace.com at https://www.createspace.com/3471268. Both companies ship books anywhere in the world, including Saipan. The book will be available at a location on Saipan soon.

A portion of the proceeds from the sale of *Our Northern Islands* will support the educational programs of the Friends of the Mariana Trench Monument and create more opportunities like the one Dennis had. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
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INVITATION FOR BID
NMHC IFB 2010-004 (REBID)

This ad is paid with HUD Funds by NMHC

Ground Maintenance Services for NMHC's Properties in Rota

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors are hereby giving notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids from interested, licensed companies in the Commonwealth to provide ground maintenance services for its properties in Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Interested firms may pick up Bid Specifications at the NMHC Office in Garapan, Saipan or at its Field Office in Songsong Village, Rota, beginning Tuesday, August 10, 2010, from 7:30 a.m. through 4:30 p.m., during regular business hours, except CNMI holidays.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the NMHC Field Office located in the Tamara and Seven Brothers Enterprises Building in Songsong Village on Wednesday, September 8, 2010, at 10:30 a.m. Bidders will have the opportunity to tour the housing subdivision and other properties owned by NMHC to be covered under the proposed contract. Attendance at this conference and site visits are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements, and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder.

Sealed bids must be marked **NMHC IFB 2010-004 (REBID)**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two (2) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950, not later than **10:00 a.m., local time Wednesday, September 15, 2010**. Bids received after the date and time will not be accepted. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m., local time, Wednesday, September 15, 2010,** and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two (2) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **Wednesday, September 15, 2010,** and must be received at Procurement and Supply no later than **September 22, 2010**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan at **8:00 a.m., local time, September 23, 2010**. However, if no notice of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:30 a.m., local time on Wednesday, September 15, 2010.**

MHC hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contacts entered into pursuant to this advertisement, small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, religion, sex, disabilities or national origin.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference" is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be awarded a contract with NMHC.

The Commonwealth Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in the bids if determined by the government to be in its best interest. All bids shall become the property of the Commonwealth Government.

/s/
MARCIE M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman of the Board

/s/
HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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INVITATION FOR BID
NMHC IFB 2010-008 - TINIAN

This ad is paid by NMHC with HUD Funds.

Building Maintenance of Section 8 Housing Units in Tinian

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, are hereby giving notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids from interested, licensed companies in the Commonwealth to provide building maintenance services for its Section 8 Housing Units in Tinian.

Interested firms may pick up Bid Specifications at any of the NMHC Offices in Garapan, Saipan or San Jose Village, Tinian, beginning Wednesday, August 11, 2010, from 7:30 a.m. through 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

A mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held on the Island Tinian. The Conference will be held at the NMHC Field Office located in the Juan King Building in San Jose Village at 10:30 a.m. on **Thursday, September 9, 2010**. Bidders will have the opportunity to tour the housing subdivisions and inspect several housing units owned by NMHC that will be covered under the proposed contract. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder.

Sealed bids must be marked **"NMHC IFB 2010-008 - Building Maintenance for Section 8 Housing Units (TINIAN)".** An original and three (3) copies of the bid must be submitted to the Procurement and Supply Office, Lower Base, Saipan no later than 10:00 am, September 16, 2010. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for the receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 am local time, **September 16, 2010**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via email to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders outside the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service, the official government postal service of a foreign country, or a commercial courier, no later than **September 16, 2010**, and must be received no later than September 23, 2010. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 am, local time **September 24, 2010**. However, if no Notices of Intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:30 am, local time on **September 16, 2010.**

Bidders are advised that this project is subject to compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act and the labor standard provisions for wage rate determination of the Commonwealth. All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate of $3.55 per hour which took effect on July 25, 2007 as established by Federal law including subsequent increases of $.50 per hour as announced by the U.S. Department of Labor and/or the CNMI Department of Labor until the hourly rate equals that of the Federal Minimum Wage of $7.50 per hour.

NMHC hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that, in any contacts entered into pursuant to this advertisement, small, minority business and women's business enterprises will be afforded equal opportunity to submit bids and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, religion, sex, disabilities or national origin.

This project is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires the successful bidder to the "maximum extent feasible", take affirmative steps to provide training, contracting and employment opportunities and help ensure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents in Rota and Tinian.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be awarded a contract with NMHC.

NMHC reserves the right to reject any and all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in the bids if determined to be in its best interest. All bids received shall become the property of the Commonwealth Government.

Should you require additional information, please direct inquiries to Jocelyn S. Kaipat, Office Manager, via email to jskaipat@nmhcgov.net or facsimile at (670) 234-9021.

/s/
MARCIE M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman of the Board

/s/
HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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MEMBER
The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

A window for immigration reform

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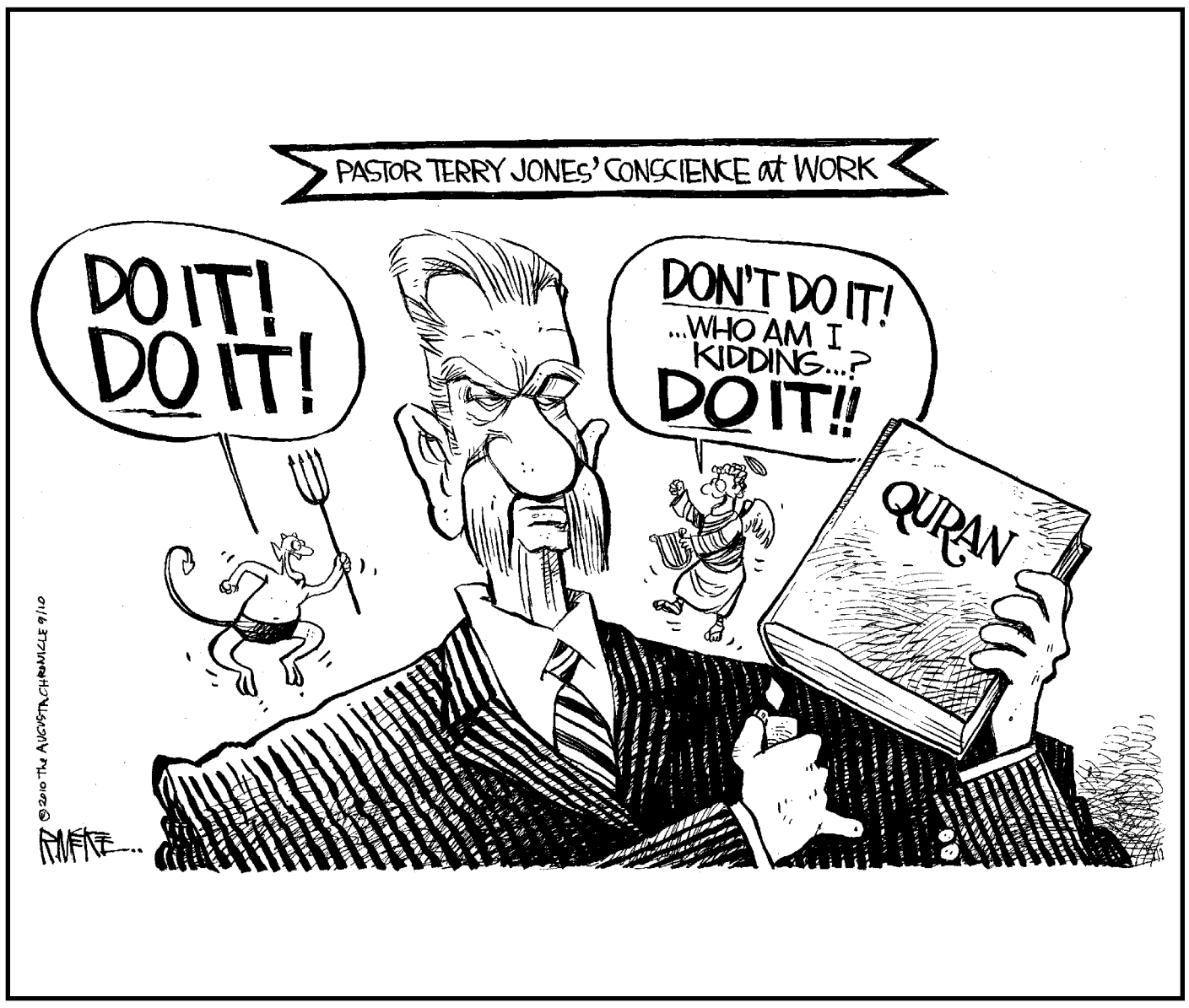
The number of immigrants entering the United States illegally has plummeted in tandem with the economy, with the greatest slowdown occurring between 2007 and 2009, according to a report issued Wednesday by the nonpartisan Pew Hispanic Center. Also, the number of people apprehended at the border is down dramatically, and furthermore, an estimated 1 million illegal immigrants have left the country. But the report, coming as the immigration reform debate turns increasingly ugly, is a timely reminder of how perception lags reality.

Even as Arizona passes draconian anti-immigrant laws and prominent Republicans seek to disenfranchise American-born children of illegal immigrants, the truth is that illegal immigration has not been this low since the middle of the decade. Between 2000 and 2005, an average of 850,000 people a year entered the United States illegally, according to the report; that number fell to 300,000 in 2007 to 2009. Some states saw particularly steep declines, including Nevada, Florida and Virginia. Arizona, Colorado and Utah saw a combined decline of 130,000 illegal immigrants. The number of people entering the country today is not insignificant, but the trend is clear. The best way to characterize this period is as a lull.

Hours after the report was released, the Obama administration credited its tough enforcement measures for the decline, citing its crackdown on employers, stepped-up deportations and plentiful staffing of the Border Patrol. Analysts of migration patterns, however, say the single largest factor is probably the economy. According to the Pew researcher who wrote the report, 90 percent of migrants without documentation who decide to cross the border succeed. They just aren't trying right now.

Crossing the border from Mexico has rarely been more difficult: It now requires the services of a coyote, and the price has jumped to $7,000 to as much as $10,000, depending on the departure point. The least patrolled route is to the east, but crossing those desert lands is only for the desperate. Violent drug cartels have diversified into human trafficking, adding a new danger to the journey, as the horrific massacre of 72 migrants from Central and South America in the Mexican state of Tamaulipas demonstrates. And once migrants arrive, there is little or no work. The unemployment rate for illegal immigrants is now higher than that of native-born and legal workers—a switch from the norm in the earlier part of the decade.

Congress should be using this period to negotiate a fix for the broken immigration system. Despite fewer arrivals, 11 million illegal immigrants remain in the United States, and reform is crucial. But instead of addressing current conditions, the country is awash in political rhetoric more suited to conditions in years past. It is a missed opportunity. Because as soon as the economy rebounds, so will illegal immigration.



I was an 'anchor baby'

By MARIE MYUNG-OK LEE
LOS ANGELES TIMES

I was an "anchor baby." According to family lore, the day I was born at Hibbing Memorial Hospital in Minnesota in the early 1960s was also the day my parents received their deportation papers. They had come to America from war-torn Korea on student visas that had run out. Laws at the time prohibited most Asians from immigrating, so they were told to leave, even with three American children.

The 14th Amendment, with its guarantee that anyone born here is an American, protected my siblings and me from being countryless. Today, in the growing clamor over illegal immigration, there have been calls to repeal this amendment, with the pejorative "anchor baby" invoked as a call to arms. The words suggest that having a child in America confers some kind of legal protection on illegal parents, that it gives them a foothold here.

But in reality, merely having a baby on American soil doesn't change the parents' status. As a so-called anchor baby, my existence did nothing to resolve my parents' situation; if anything, it only added to their stress.

In Korea, my father was a talented physician who also happened to speak fluent English. These skills led to his appointment as a medical liaison officer with a M-A-S-H unit during the Korean War. The assignment brought him to the attention of some American officers who, after the war ended, arranged for him and my mother to come to the United States so my father could continue his education. He ended up training with Dr. C. Walton Lillehei, a pioneer of heart surgery; my father was one of the first anesthesiologists in the world capable of administering anesthesia during open-heart surgery.

Other wartime contacts led to his job as an anesthesiologist in Hibbing, a northern Minnesota town that, because of its isolation and bitter winters, had trouble attracting doctors. My father was the sole anesthesiologist for miles, which meant that he spent long hours at the hospital, where he met with each patient the night before their surgeries and wouldn't leave until he'd answered all their questions. At home, a phone call during dinner—announcing springtime chain-saw accidents, appendectomies, emergency C-sections—often sent him rushing back to the hospital.

It wasn't until years later, when he made friends with another anesthesiologist who could cover for him—a German immigrant in Duluth, 70 miles away—that we could finally take a family vacation; until then, my father even had to be careful about drinking a beer at a cookout in case the hospital should call with another emergency.

It was peculiar laws rather than criminal intent that made my parents outlaws at the time of my birth. For most of American history, our country has had an open-door policy on immigration, restricting only people employed in certain kinds of occupations (such as prostitution) and those with communicable diseases. Then, in 1882, Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act out of fear that Chinese immigrants would take American jobs.

In 1924, the Immigration and Naturalization Act established quotas that heavily favored "desirable" Western Europeans while banning immigration from Japan, Korea and other Asian countries. Had my father been from Germany—like his anesthesiologist friend in Duluth, also toiling away at a job American doctors eschewed—citizenship would have happened easily. The same if my father had been from Mexico, as the act placed no quota restrictions on immigration from countries in the Western Hemisphere.

Instead, my parents went through an awful period of uncertainty, instability and stress, which included being swindled by a number of "immigration lawyers." In the end, self-interest won out. Not my parents' self-interest (although they did want to stay in the U.S.) but the interest of a town that needed its anesthesiologist.

Another friend of mine, also Korean-American—an academic who has written groundbreaking books and nurtured a generation of scholars—mentioned to me that when her parents died, she opened a special box she'd always thought held secret, glittery treasures, only to find it stuffed with deportation warnings from the INS. Many of my immigrant and second-generation friends share this secret shame festering underneath the foil seals on our college and graduate degrees and our taxpaying lives. Studies show that immigrants, legal and not, are more law-abiding than the rest of the populace, and possibly more patriotic.

As a writer, I receive letters from readers who tell me how my work has touched, even changed, their lives; as a child, I often heard my father's patients expressing similar sentiments of gratitude. Even the most anti-immigrant citizens have probably been touched by an illegal alien and/or an anchor baby in ways they probably cannot fully fathom.

Our Minnesota town, where people prided themselves on following the law to the letter, did not rush to bring in the INS and run our illegal family out on a rail. People were instead so fearful of losing my father and his skills that the entire town signed a petition to protest the deportation order. This petition was brought to Congress by

See I WAS on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Dennis Chan and his Northern Islands

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

Our Northern Islands is actually the title of a book produced collaboratively by Dennis Chan on text and Angelo Villagomez on editing, layout, graphics and publishing. The deft touch of the editor is obvious, but the youth and spirit of Dennis comes through. Subtitled *The first expedition to the Mariana Trench National Monument,* it chronicles a trip taken by Friends of the Monument after the declaration by GWBush of the surrounding area of Asuncion, Maug and Urucas—the northernmost islands of the Marianas chain—as a marine protected area.

One of the friends funded the trip with the caveat that a young person be chosen through an essay contest to experience the islands and return to tell of the experience to peers. Dennis Chan, 18-year-old Saipan born and bred, won the essay and this book is a coffee table conversation piece that chronicles the journey in words and pictures.

Dennis' staccato narrative from notes in a log/journal notebook handed him at the start of the trip, with the cadence and idiom of the classroom hallways, is given recognizable mainstream form by our erstwhile mayor of Saipan's watering holes, and Saipan's almost *Matua* with the *Matachang* service style of 2009 election, now within the beltway habitué of the nation's capital, Angelo Villagomez. The racy tone in the recollection like that of the two-day-old chaffy underwear is ordinary enough, but might in the telling have gotten an "R" rating from Hollywood's MPAA!

Not a few of the younger Chan siblings were in my class at SVES and their dad Norman is known for setting up refined gastronomic *fan dian* (restaurants, literally, rice shops). Dennis at the International School was once characterized as a "slick talker like a used-car salesman" (with no offense meant to the guys down the car lot, only to admire their marketing skills), and we did get the chance to see him perform in one of the island's debating events. He is an MHS grad.

What comes through loud and clear in the book is that Dennis is no country bumpkin. The urban comfort of globalized Saipan was not missed in his obvious upbringing and Dennis might know the principle of friction, but may not know how to kindle wood were he stuck on an island without any amenities, and his life depended on it.

A queasy stomach got him green by the gills as soon as the waves hit starboard on the navigatinal float *Lady Carolina,* and on the return from Maug and Uracus through Agrihan and Pagan, side-stepping the patty cakes on the ground and the buzz in the air from the bees and flies, our cosmopolitan dude bedrudgingly started fending for himself.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Dennis Chan holds up a coconut crab.

In one of the book's photos, Dennis holds a huge coconut crab with the mixed expression of "I would love to have this under my belly cooked and relished slowly, but do I have to hold this live one for a frigging picture?" His pose on *Lady Carolina* in Uracus from the southeast is priceless and would make an excellent resumé promo and an application supplement to an institution of higher education anywhere in the world!

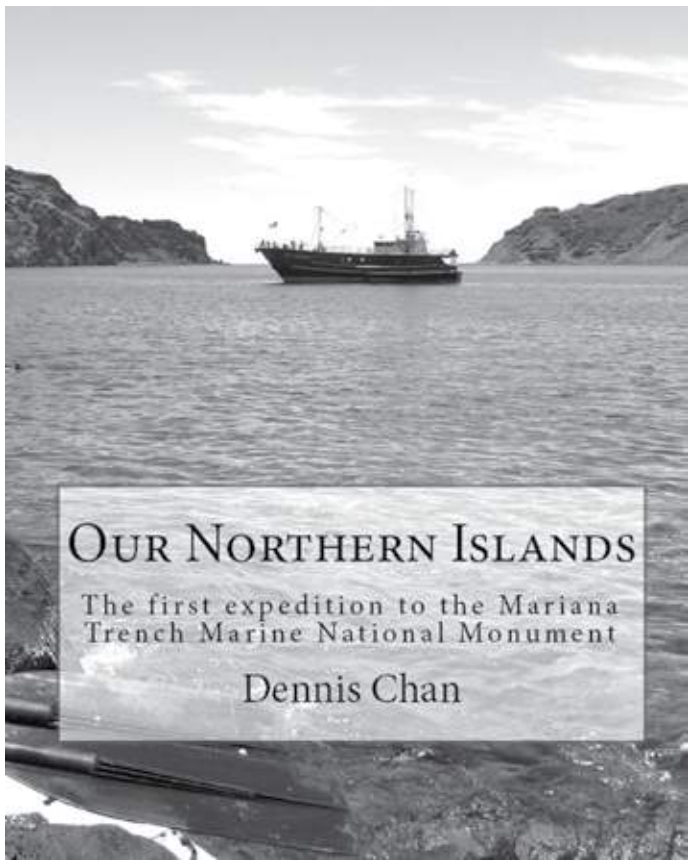
Dennis is currently registered at the Northern Marianas College, our local and only community college. A colleague took exception to his remaining on island when his obvious talents could be challenged more thoroughly elsewhere. In a sense, the two-year associate liberal arts degree from NMC might not be a bad place for Dennis to exercise self-reliance and self-motivity in nurturing his own self-confidence for a larger field elsewhere.

Besides, the social networking that prestigious universities offer their studentry may be useful at spring break in one of the instant "student" towns, but only rarely, unless it is accompanied by aristocratic pedigree, does it lead to an apartment on Park Avenue, or a tenure at Cambridge.

On the other hand, Dennis should not be denied the resources to move elsewhere two years hence, should he so desires. SHEFA and the local Chamber of Commerce scholarship might not be a bad place to start. I would not recommend the poker house as an option!

The awe and wonder in Maug and the circumnavigation of the northernmost island Uracus (Farallon de Pajaros) is the heart of the trip: *"There are so many places to see in the world, and I'm sure I'll always say I'll come back, but life, life's got so much to do and other places to go. I may never be in Pagan again or Maug or any of our Northern Islands. The thought is a sad one, but it makes the moment even more special"* and the stopovers in Agrigan and Pagan, its humanness. *"Pagan, the heights, the vistas, the beach, and all that beauty. I think beauty should be bought in the effort to see it, and so I did. I arrived at beauty; I roamed through it with blistered feet and sore groin."*

Youthful enthusiasm and neophyte adventure jumps out of pages of this book. Now, Angelo needs to get a sequel out from his adult and professional perspective (and encourage colleagues—two professional writers, a photographer, navigators and environmentalists—to produce their memories and recollections as well).



Our Northern Islands
The first expedition to the Northern Mariana Trench National Monument
Dennis Chan
www.AngeloVillagomez.com

Letter to the Editor

No to unions in the public sector

I hope that finality about the PSS teachers' collective bargaining makes it to a just and restful end. Let me say this, I'll bet all my money to Mr. Ambrose Bennett if he cites the particular federal law that applies to collective bargaining for teachers or public employees in the CNMI. A federal intervention and takeover on this as suggested by Mr. Bennett is unthinkable. Maybe Mr. Bennett knows something that none of us in the CNMI knows. The last time I checked, the National Labor Relations Act does not apply since that law only pertains to industrial jurisprudence for the so-called "private sector" collective bargaining and labor relations. I don't think "common law" applies to this situation at all. What about "natural law"? Perhaps revisiting again John Locke's exhaustive essay on the treatise of "natural law" may have some relevance. But this, too, is not the case. So what federal law? It seems as though we can just say in hindsight that the sky is blue when we all know that light does not have color. But our five visual senses seem to deceive our interpretation of reality even if we fix our attention to questionable observation. Let Mr. Bennett make that effort and do us a favor by sticking to facts and putting meat on the bones.

Here is the deal on public sector union: Unions have buckled state and city jurisdictions because of the deals that were negotiated by bureaucrats and union bosses. New York City, Chicago, Los Angeles, Atlanta, the list goes on and on. These same state, local, city and county jurisdictions are hurting today because they could no longer sustain the continuing escalation of government operational costs because of deals with unions. Bureaucrats and union bosses in large cities are dining on the same plates. Many public sector employees' pension funds where unions are heavily involved are experiencing irreversible financial collapse because of the tight control of unions on these funds, not to mention fraud and waste. In the end, the taxpayers are paying dearly for these unsuspecting turn of events in union proliferation in the public sector. We will leave room for horror stories after horror stories for future discussions. Believe me, we have just touched the tip of the iceberg about problems of unionization in the public sector. And only in liberal states where you find unions are the staple of governance. For the CNMI, we need to be extra vigilant and hold our love for concentrated governance by elected officials. A third-party representation seems too farfetched in this generation. What the next generation will get into remains to be seen.

Francisco R. Agulto
Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

I WAS

From Page 10

our local representative and eventually signed into a law to "provide relief" for my mother and father—but only them.

And although they were legal, they still weren't entitled to become citizens. This satisfied the townspeople, who were happy we were anchor babies—that we anchored my father to this place where his skills were so needed. But my parents, even as "permanent alien residents" with three (later four) American-born children, were still left in legal limbo, inhabiting an America that allowed them to stay, work, pay taxes, but not vote.

As an alien, my father worked at a job that other Americans did not want to do, and others like him have, too, harvesting crops, performing surgery, nurturing children, working in factories, making scientific discoveries, mopping floors.

In 1965, at the foot of the Statue of Liberty, President Lyndon Johnson signed a new immigration act to correct "a cruel and enduring wrong in the conduct of the American nation." It meant my parents were no longer "aliens ineligible for citizenship." They passed their citizenship tests with flying colors and received passports with blue covers and gilt eagles that matched their children's. My father went on to work at Hibbing Memorial Hospital for three more decades. And finally, we were an American family.

Marie Myung-Ok Lee is the author of the novel Somebody's Daughter. *She teaches at Brown University and she wrote this for the* Los Angeles Times.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

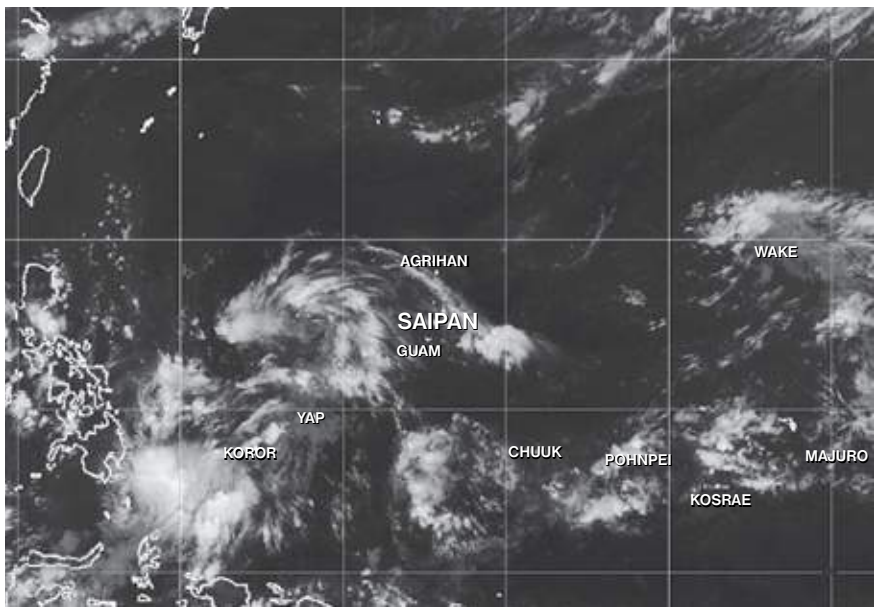
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Sunny	▲86	▼75
Palau	Showers	▲85	▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87	▼75
Kosrae	Showers	▲88	▼76
Majuro	Showers	▲85	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲59	▼52
Beijing	Sunny	▲87	▼66
Hong Kong	Partly Sunny	▲90	▼79
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼72
London	Showers	▲66	▼48
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲76	▼58
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼77
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲53	▼42
Miami	Thundershowers	▲89	▼80
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲75	▼59
Osaka	Partly Sunny	▲85	▼71
Paris	Partly Sunny	▲72	▼57
Pusan	Showers	▲83	▼67
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼60
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼50
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼54
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲81	▼62
Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲79	▼70
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲82	▼60

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Upper-level divergence near an upper low centered west of the CNMI near 14N137E is generating scattered showers and thunderstorms between Palau and the CNMI in two different areas. The first over the Marianas between 137E and 149E from 11N to 17N and the second south of Yap and over Palau within 150 miles of a line extending from 11N131E to 5N140E. Another upper low centered west of Wake Island near 18N162E is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms near Wake Island and north of the Marshalls within 120 miles of a line extending from 10N172E to 16N172E ending at 20N167E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms southwest of Chuuk between 146E and 150E from 2N to 7N and across Pohnpei, Kosrae and the Marshalls within 150 miles of a line extending from 4N156E to 8N166E ending at 8N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

6:05 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
1:14 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
6:22 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
11:15 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:05 AM	6:20 PM
Wednesday	6:06 AM	6:19 PM
Thursday	6:06 AM	6:18 PM
Friday	6:06 AM	6:17 PM
Saturday	6:06 AM	6:17 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:33 AM	11:01 PM
Wednesday	12:29 PM	11:55 PM
Thursday	1:21 PM	
Friday	2:09 PM	12:49 AM
Saturday	2:52 PM	1:42 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2010

DEPARTURES

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	5:00am	5:30am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	Daily
C09605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily
C09599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:35am	Daily
DL297	3:20pm	5:55pm	Daily
DL289	4:35pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA

DL640	7:40am	10:20am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:10pm	Daily via NRT
DL640/629	7:40am	10:35pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-Palau
C09599/PR111	9:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	9:30pm	1, 5 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	6:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL290	9:45am	2:20pm	Daily
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:10am+1	Daily

NAGOYA-SAIPAN

DL641	9:10pm	1:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/605	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
DL630/641	6:30am	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
DL172/288	7:40am	1:10am+1	Daily via NRT
C0890/9606	10:55am	9:00pm	6 via GUM
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via GUM-Palau
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	10:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Special Feature

The American occupation of Japan 65 YEARS AGO

U.S. NATIONAL ARCHIVES

General of the Army Douglas MacArthur, U.S. Army (second from right), with other senior Army officers, upon his arrival at Atsugi airdrome, near Tokyo, Japan, 30 August 1945. Among those present are Maj. Gen. Joseph M. Swing, Commanding General, 11th Airborne Division, (left); Lt. Gen. Richard K. Sutherland (3rd from right); Gen. Robert L. Eichelberger (right). Aircraft in the background is a Douglas C-54.

Researched from sources cited
By WILLIAM H. STEWART
Military Historical Cartographer

This is the third and final presentation in this series of historical essays relating to the Pacific War of 65 years distant. This section follows previously published accounts of which the first addressed the Aug. 6 bombing of Hiroshima and the use of the atomic bomb, the second in the series addressed Japan's surrender and the conclusion of hostilities in early September 1945.

This third and final account looks at the process of rebuilding that devastated society and the six years, seven months of America's occupation of Japan (August '45 - April '52).

A look back at the magnitude of the occupation of Japan

The Japanese "spirit" during WWII

Reflecting on the American occupation of Japan and the events that led to the nation's defeat, MIT historian John W. Dower, in his powerful book, *Embracing Defeat*, wrote: "The entire economic structure of Japan's greatest cities had been wrecked. Five million of Tokyo's seven million population had left the ruined city. All told, probably at least 2.7 million servicemen and civilians died as a result of the war. Millions more were injured, sick of seriously malnourished.

"In terms of material losses, allied assaults on shipping destroyed one-quarter of the country's wealth. This included four-fifths of all ships, one third of all industrial machine tools and almost a quarter of all rolling stock and motor vehicles.

"Sixty-six major cities, including Hiroshima and Nagasaki, had been heavily damaged, many reduced to carbon dust. Forty percent of the nation's urban areas had been incinerated, leaving 30 percent of the population homeless. In Tokyo, 67 percent of all residences were destroyed."

Following the conclusion of hostilities, in 1946, Dr. Ruth Benedict, a professor of anthropology at Columbia University, in her book, *The Chrysanthemum and the Sword*, explored the period of occupation and described the contrast in Japanese society as reflected against the cultural traits of the West and in particular that of the United States.

I wish to state at the outset that the comments and observations that follow are, for the most part, those of cultural anthropologist Dr. Ruth Fulton Benedict (1887-1948).

In the lead up to war, Japan had put her hopes of victory on a different basis and set of values from that which prevailed in the United States. Unquestionably, from the Japanese viewpoint, Japan would certainly win—it would be a victory of spirit over matter. America was big, her armaments were superior, but what did that matter? All this, it was said, had been foreseen and discounted. "If we had been afraid of mathematical figures," the Japanese read in the popular newspaper *Mainichi Shimbun*, "the war would not have started. The enemy's great resources were not created by the war."

Prior to and throughout the war the people had no civil liberties, no civil rights, no habeas corpus. They had the absolute obligation to obey orders. Even in conversation they were to be polite—not convey information. The smallest departure from courtesy was prohibited by law and enforced by the Kempei-tai, the Japanese Gestapo.

Author Upton Close observed the Japanese race "can hate tremendously, who can give themselves to the most unspeakable savageries—and yet—when the fury passes are the most gentle-mannered people in the world."

One of the most oft-posed questions concerned the Japanese attitude toward His Imperial Majesty, the Emperor. Just what was the hold of the Emperor on his subjects?

To most Japanese the Emperor was inseparable from Japan. If you were to ask a Japanese at the time of the war his opinion of the Emperor one would hear such statements as: "A Japan without the Emperor is not Japan." "Japan without the Emperor cannot be imagined."

The militarists used the appeal of loyalty to the Emperor in every possible way. They called on their men to "fulfill the wishes of His Imperial Majesty."

As an example of such reverence, the court tailor could not measure the Emperor's clothes except from a distance because touching the imperial person was forbidden. When the Emperor traveled, all blinds along the entire route had to be drawn, because of the belief that a direct view of the Son of Heaven might cause blindness. No Japanese was ever supposed to look at him, or even his picture unless it was covered with tissue.

As an example of the Japanese feelings toward the Emperor, an instance is recalled that before the war a traffic policeman gave the wrong signal in an imperial procession; he killed himself in shame.

The Japanese Emperor was the symbol of the Japanese people, the center of their religious lives. He was a super religious object. Nor would he be blamed for the defeat if Japan lost the war. The people did not consider the Emperor responsible for the war. It was said even if Japan lost the war 10 out of 10 Japanese would still revere the Emperor.

What quirk of Japanese character made it possible to endure utter and complete defeat and yet hold the Emperor in such a sacrosanct position? This was a question that puzzled many Western observers.

In 1942 upon returning to the United States after having been exchanged for the Japanese diplomats in Washington, U.S. Ambassador Joseph Grew wrote in his book, *Report From Tokyo*, "At this very moment the Japanese feel themselves, man for man, superior to us and any of our people. They admire our technology, they have a lurking dread of our ultimate superiority of resources, but all too many of them have contempt for us as human beings," (See *Tribune* archives "Diplomats", Dec. 3–7, 2007).

The Japanese at the beginning of the war were well aware of the high standard of living of Western people in 1940. But they also believed that the high standard of living brought about softness—even degeneracy—to Western civilization. They believed that those who supported democracy were weakened and that those who maintained a love of peace are weakened by it.

The people of Japan were wholly united in their support of their armed forces simply because it was declared to be the will of the Emperor. To oppose the will of the Throne, the will of the Son of Heaven was unthinkable. Disloyalty to the Emperor would shame their own ancestors, since ancestor worship, the patriotic faith of Shintoism, was the fundamental faith of the entire country. The strength of the Japanese lay in their fanatical obedience to authority as indeed there were many in various Japanese cabinets at the time who were in tune with extremists in the military.

The military made the decisions—the Emperor announced them. That was the way it worked.

As the war drew to a close and those Japanese who didn't kill themselves many who surrendered later said, the Japanese "will fight unhesitatingly, even with nothing but bamboo poles if the Emperor so decreed." They would stop just as quickly if he so ordered. Japan will throw down arms if the Emperor issued the order. Only his words could make the Japanese people accept defeat.

Gen. Douglas MacArthur, as the supreme occupying authority, undoubtedly knew this, as history would later prove.

MacArthur's role in World War II is no doubt known by many readers of this paper and it is not my intention to recount the more well-known facets of his career, which have been the subject of numerous films and books.

From my area of interest I find it particularly intriguing to research the actual documents related to this remarkable army officer—documents that more often appeared only as footnotes within the many published popular historical accounts.

For example, I wanted to know what were MacArthur's specific orders to govern Japan.

An unprecedented historical assignment

Democracy imposed by a dictator

As historian John W. Dower noted, "General MacArthur and his command ruled their new domain as neocolonial overlords, beyond challenge or criticism, as inviolate as the Emperor and his officials had ever been. They epitomized hierarchy—not merely vis-a-vis the defeated enemy, but within their own rigidly layered ranks as well."

General MacArthur's authority in Japan based on his orders and directives as approved by President Harry S Truman (Sept. 6, 1945) are summarized as follows:

1. The authority of the Emperor and the Japanese Government to rule the State is subordinate to you as Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers. You will exercise your authority as you deem proper to carry out your mission. Our relations with Japan do not rest on a contractual basis, but on unconditional surrender. Since your authority is supreme, you will not entertain any question on the part of the Japanese as to its scope.

2. Control of Japan shall be exercised through the Japanese Government to the extent that such an arrangement produces satisfactory results. You may enforce the orders issued by you by the employment of such measures as you deem necessary, including the use of force.

3. The statement of intentions contained in the Potsdam Declaration will be given full effect. It will not be given effect, however, because we consider ourselves bound by a contractual relationship with Japan as a result of the document. It will be respected and given effect because the Potsdam Declaration forms a part of our policy stated in good faith with relation to Japan and with relation to peace and security in the Far East.

The above was followed by a lengthy description of specific orders and actions as to how the Supreme Commander would exercise his "unlimited" command jurisdiction. In summary these included the following mandate (abbreviated by this reviewer):

A. Basis and Scope of Military Authority:

The "Directive" signed by President of the United States (described above); the Instrument of Surrender, executed by command of the Emperor of Japan; the Potsdam Declaration of July 26, 1945 and subsequent communications with the Japanese High Command.

B. Basic Objectives of Military Occupation of Japan: *Foster conditions to give greatest possible assurance that Japan will not again become a menace to the peace and security of the world. Abolition of militarism and ultra-national organizations in all forms; disarm and demilitarize Japan; strengthen democratic tendencies and processes in government. The United States desires that the Japanese Government conform as closely as may be to principles of democratic self-government, but it is not the responsibility of the occupation forces to impose on Japan any form of government not supported by the freely expressed will of the people.*

C. Establishment of Military Authority over Japan: *Immediately upon the surrender of Japan you will require the Emperor, the Japanese Government and the Japanese Imperial Headquarters to issue orders to all the armed forces of Japan and all armed forces under Japanese control to cease hostilities and to surrender their arms.*

You will occupy the Imperial capital of Tokyo and the capitals of such prefectures as you deem necessary. You will take prompt action to assure the restoration and maintenance of law and order by Japanese forces or by your own forces, if necessary.

Where action is necessary in order to carry out the surrender, you have the right to act directly from the outset. Otherwise, subject always to your right as Supreme Commander to take

See OCCUPATION on Next Page

Ruin, reform, reconstruction, recovery

» The US military occupation of Japan

Researched from Sources Cited
By WILLIAM H. STEWART
MILITARY HISTORICAL CARTOGRAPHER

Toward the end of the war when food was in such short supply in Japan, those children who had been moved to the countryside for safety created a pitiful card game. Nine sets of cards were hand drawn, each set consisting of a drawing divided into three pieces. After shuffling the cards, the players would compete in matching the right combinations of three pieces each to produce the original drawing. These drawings were of a plate of food but with no meat or eggs and only a small portion of rice and vegetables. The only way for many of the children to see good food was through this game.

During the days of the occupation one was likely to see charcoal-burning taxies powered by a stove and bales of wood for fuel. Pedicabs, a marriage between a bicycle and a rickshaw, was a common means of transportation.

Many streets had been given temporary American names such as 12th Street and Hashimoto Avenue and after a thoroughfare had been cleared of debris, traffic at night was directed by neatly dressed uniformed police officers at busy intersections with paper lanterns illuminated by candles. Each intersection had more than one police officer, some as many as four. When asked why, MacArthur reasoned that it allowed for more families to be fed as a result of the employment.

There was Doolittle Park, Washington Heights and Roosevelt Area. Popular cigarettes with brand names "Peace" and "Happy" could be purchased. There were humorous signs in misspelled English: "Curious Antics", (meaning Curios & Antiques); "Pearls, Curios & Fresh Fish"; "Off Limits - Venereal Disease Welcome Foreign Traders"; "Forgive & Forget"; "Sanitary Manure Only. "Restaurant menu items printed in English might read "Assoarted Frut"; "Custurded Pudding."

American soldiers were not permitted to enter any bar or nightclub marked "Off Limits" and could not stay in a Japanese home after 11pm. They were discouraged from eating local food in Japanese restaurants when prepared by local cooks unless approved by military health authorities. This was a sanitary precaution as some local produce was cultivated using "night soil."

The restricted policy also eliminated any charge of exploitation by either party. Most importantly, however, Americans were expected to provide for their own food and take nothing from the food-short Japanese people.

To assault or molest a Japanese could result in the American being sentenced to a maximum of five years in prison. A G.I. robbed a teahouse of 500 yen ($1.30) and was dishonorably discharged and sentenced to 10 years of hard labor.

My good friend, Harry McCutcheon, who served in the occupation, remembers, "We were the victors and could do no wrong as long as you didn't commit a crime. General MacArthur ran a very tight ship, several Americans were hung on Okinawa for rape and murder.

"There was an 11:30pm curfew and you had to be off the street. If you got caught by the military police on the street after curfew, they would pick you up and you would have to spend the night in an open cell in the jail and they would send a 'Harry is a bad boy' note to your first sergeant."

Moral of the story and lesson to be taught: Victors, though they may be American soldiers, were not above being punished if they broke rules and the law. This was not lost on the ever-observant Japanese. It was not until the peace treaty was signed that a Japanese law enforcement officer could arrest an American soldier for some illegal action.

According to author John Gunther, *The Riddle of MacArthur*, who resided in Japan in the early '50s, fraternization was not forbidden. Apparently it was MacArthur's attitude that "soldiers will be soldiers no matter what, and that people of different nationalities ought to get to know one another." Gunther went on to observe, "Odd and striking as the point may seem, most Americans in Japan appear to have forgotten completely that the Japanese were ever our implacable, mortal enemies; there is practically no evidence of hostility, resentment, or even suspicion. This is not to say that Americans by and large actually liked the Japanese, nor did they understand them well; most were baffled day by day by peculiarities in Japanese behavior and found them a profoundly impenetrable people."

Interestingly, foreign diplomats in Japan were not accredited to the Emperor or the Japanese government but to MacArthur himself. They could make no contact with the government except by permission and approval of the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers (SCAP). All foreign heads of missions presented the credentials of their respective governments to MacArthur and were not permitted any direct official access to any Japanese. Remarkably, even the U.S. Department of State and the American Ambassador was an emissary to MacArthur and many SCAP officials considered the State Department a nuisance. And they paid no attention at all to the Russians in Tokyo who considered themselves a member of the Allied Council. The Soviet Union entered the war against Japan only two days after the Hiroshima bombing.

In this photograph, taken on July 2, 1946 in Tokyo, the woman is receiving her ration of 297 grams of food per person/per day. While the donated food was helpful, the amount rationed was not really enough for survival, and a black market flourished.

Theodore Cohen in his book, *Remaking Japan The American Occupation As New Deal,* describes the occupation as "the most massive cultural clash in modern history. Two societies, that of occupiers and that of the Japanese, each built on premises alien to the other, existed side by side."

Not long after the start of the occupation, large numbers of U.S. battle-hardened veterans were discharged and sent home. In many instances they were often replaced by their younger brothers who had not participated in the bitter fighting and harbored no hostility toward the Japanese. As time went on fewer and fewer in the American Army of occupation were actually veterans of the fighting.

At the time, Cohen posed the question: "After discarding years of feudal isolation and their own nation's military dominance over their society, how was Japan able to convert its economy and institutions after a relatively short period of six or seven years of military occupation and establish a political democracy?"

His answer rests partially on the provision of enormous quantities of American food aid; defense against foreign war reparation payments (at least until the 70's); United States support of the country's return to the international community of nations; adoption of a constitution and progressive economic democratization.

Professor Takasaka Takashi of Kyoto University observed that "only a powerful outside force could have broken the immensely tenacious traditional mold which permitted postwar transformation."

The dynamism of the Japanese people was freed from the confines of the past and the world has witnessed the innovative results of an industrious and capable people.

Is it possible that Mr. Cohen has pointed the way for a solution to a vexing contemporary military problem in the Middle East? Based on his observations: "Though the immediate power balance between conquerors and conquered would seem to indicate the exact opposite, it was far more important for the Americans to impress the Japanese favorably than vice versa. The success of the occupation and the acceptance by the Japanese of American objectives depended upon it."

"In an occupation that claimed to be liberating the people from the bad old days, it was imperative that the occupiers act like liberators. By Japanese standards, and especially in light of initial Japanese fears, they surely did."

As the researcher for this series I will resist the temptation to draw a parallel between then and now with respect to recent events in Iraq except to state there's a lesson there somewhere.

OCCUPATION

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direct action in the event of the unwillingness or failure of the Emperor or other Japanese authority to act effectively, you will exercise your supreme authority through the Emperor and Japanese government machinery, national and local. The policy is to use the existing form of government in Japan, not to support it.

Changes in the direction of modifying the feudal and authoritarian tendencies of the government are to be permitted and favored. In the event that the effectuation of such changes involves the use of force by the Japanese people or government against persons opposed thereto, you as Supreme Commander should intervene only where necessary to ensure the security of your forces and the attainment of all other objectives of the occupation. You may, as circumstances require, exercise your supreme power and authority in the fullest measure including the imposition of direct military government. You will not remove the Emperor or take any steps toward his removal without prior consultation with and advice issued to you through the (U.S.) Joint Chiefs of Staff.

You will take the appropriate steps in Japan to effect the complete government and administrative separation from Japan of: (1) all Pacific islands which she has seized or occupied under mandate or otherwise since the beginning of the World War in 1914; (2) Manchuria, Formosa and the Pescadores (P'eng-hu, 48 islands held by Taiwan); (3) Korea; (4) Karafuto, (Sakhalin) (5) and such other territories as may be specified in future directives.

A policy of non-fraternization may be applied in Japan if, and to the extent, you may deem it to be desirable.

By appropriate means you will make clear to all levels of the Japanese population the fact of their defeat. They must be made to realize that their suffering and defeat have been brought upon them by the lawless and irresponsible aggression of Japan, and only when militarism has been eliminated from Japanese life and institutions will Japan be admitted to the family of nations.

My friend, Harry McCutcheon, who is known to many in the NMI, was in the occupation army and recalls watching one day when General MacArthur left his headquarters in the Dai-Ichi Building in Tokyo.

Several Japanese traffic police on the street blew their whistles, held up white gloved hands and stopped all traffic at the point where five streets converged at a single intersection in the city. Silver helmeted honor guards lining both sides of a long series of steps leading to street level snapped to attention without a single order and presented arms to the Supreme Commander of Japan as he ran down the steps trailed by a number of high ranking military officers. As he ducked his head to enter his chauffeur-driven car it started to pull away from the curb even before the door was entirely closed. Harry remembers two American businessmen standing nearby remarking: "Who does he think he is, holding up traffic. W are busy people and have business to conduct here." The other bystander replied, "Oh, that's OK, there goes the United States of America," and he was right—MacArthur WAS the United States of America as far as Japan was concerned.

The logistics of occupation

In his speech to the troops on Sept. 8, 1945 MacArthur stated: "Occupation of Japan must take place without unnecessary violence, without undue oppression. Property and personal rights of the Japanese people are to be respected. Looting, pillage, rape and other deliberate violations of universal standards of human behavior would but stain your own high honor. On the battlefield you won respect at the point of the bayonet. It is the responsibility of each of you, by your conduct, behavior and performance of duty to maintain an equal respect as victors, who believe in, and practice the principles for which we fought." (Sept. 8, 1945, MacArthur's victory message to the troops)

From the day of his arrival in Japan until his departure MacArthur never took any but the most primitive precautions against bodily harm. He entered and exited his headquarters in the Dai-Ichi Building four times a day, every day of the year in full view of a crowd of many hundreds of Japanese assembled by the doorway to watch him. But automobile traffic was not permitted on the streets when he moved from his office to his residence at the American Embassy.

While the Allied occupation was almost exclusively American, for a period there were troop contingents from the British Commonwealth and Australians—but there were never any Russian, Chinese, French or other armies in Japan.

When President Truman appointed MacArthur as the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, the USSR was included since by that time the USSR had declared war on Japan on Aug. 8, two days after the Hiroshima bomb attack.

Japan never ceased to exist as a state even though its military operations suffered severely in the field. Its navy drowned and was at the bottom of 10 oriental seas and much of the effectiveness of its air force diminished. But—there was always a prime minister, a cabinet and a continuous process of government.

From the very beginning MacArthur decided to use, in every possible way, the existing machinery of the Japanese government. Nothing would be overtly forced on anybody, and formality would be delicately observed. As a result, people in Tokyo at the time referred to the system as "government by telephone."

There is no written record of what pressure, if any, was brought against any Japanese bureaucrat. Ostensibly, almost everything had been turned back to the Japanese, which was to act of behalf of the Supreme Commander.

Aside from purging various militaristic elements from the government, an early MacArthur edict was, "We won't do for them what they can do themselves." The technique implied informally, "If you need advice on a particular matter or issue, my (MacArthur's staff) was available to assist." It was the Japanese government that made the laws but always subordinate to MacArthur.

The nation needed 4 million new dwellings. The people had to be fed. When MacArthur cabled Washington for 3.5 million tons of food, the Pentagon quibbled, the State Department demanded details and forms to be filled out, committees had to be established, studies made, bureaucratic channels explored. MacArthur cabled a second time: "Give me bread or give me bullets."

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OCCUPATION

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Once it had been written, as far as the new Japanese Constitution was concerned it did not apply to the Supreme Commander Allied Powers (SCAP), thus there were two laws in effect in Japan—theirs and ours.

The task of about 2,200 American administrators, secretaries, chauffeurs—everybody—(other than those in the occupation army) was to rule 83 million Japanese (a ratio of 1:37,700) and to: abolish the Imperial General Headquarters and discredit the former military and conduct war crimes trials; end feudalism and the drastic curtailment of ancient privilege; abolish the system of indentured or forced labor; abolish the nobility and do away with peerage (except for a few members of the Imperial family); liberation of women, enact full and free women's suffrage, promote extremely advanced labor legislation (limit overtime for women workers, restricted night work in certain industries, generous leave for illness and pre-maternal care and equal pay for equal work were a few of the newly imposed labor laws. One law limited the weight a charcoal worker could carry on his back). The occupation was also to provide education for the masses. This involved 19 million students, 42,000 schools and 650,000 teachers.

Bookmobiles were sent out to the villages. Near the end of the occupation for the school year 1951 -- 250 million textbooks were printed and distributed. Adult education films were produced locally known as "selfy-helpies" and were widely popular.

The occupation administration did not impose new school texts on the Japanese—they wrote them themselves. The old texts were discarded if they exhibited any militaristic or ultranationalist ideas and most did. The biggest problem facing the the Americans at MacArthur's Headquarters was "how to teach the teachers."

As author John Gunther pointed out, the Americans in Tokyo shouldn't feel too superior about our superiority in education. Japan's literacy rate was very high, well over 90 percent. It was common knowledge that between 60 and 70 percent of the G.I's in the Eighth Army never went beyond the fifth grade.

A wide expansion of social service was undertaken, birth control, public health (revaccination of the entire population). On two occasions every human being in Japan was vaccinated. Twice the medical service administered inoculations to about 80 million persons. Smallpox was eliminated as a health problem. Cholera completely disappeared.

Fifty million Japanese were dusted with DDT, diphtheria was reduced 86 percent, typhoid and paratyphoid were reduced 9 percent. Other efforts increased rice production; imposed steep taxation on the rich; enacted a habeas corpus law. It was reform, reform—from bottom to top.

MacArthur abolished the State religion of Shinto, which taught the individual human being did not count, but that everything was subservient to the state, symbolized in the person of a "divine" Emperor. The Japanese government was prohibited from the "sponsorship, support, perpetuation, control and dissemination of State Shinto or any other religion."

MacArthur ordered the breakup of the great family monopolies—the zaibatsu—big holding companies and industrial combinations.

One result of the breakup of the zaibatsu and the family system of ownership was to introduce new blood and develop incentives to make business more efficient and profitable, with the result that some occupation policies taught the Japanese how to compete—if you can imagine that!

Criticism of MacArthur was illegal and forbidden since the first days of the occupation. It was also illegal for American members of MacArthur's headquarters to criticize the occupation.

While in Tokyo, author John Gunther wrote, "a cavalry private was found guilty of forceful entry into a Japanese tea-house and armed robbery. He took yen 500 ($1.30) from one Japanese and yen 23 (6 - 1/2 cents) from another. The private was sentenced to 10 years of hard labor and was dishonorably discharged."

For an American soldier to even slap a Japanese publicly could bring a prison sentence as stiff as five years.

'Preserving the Throne'

According to MacArthur's Japanese biographer, Professor Sodei Rinjiro, more important than the future shape of the imperial system, the people's immediate concern was whether the Emperor was to be held responsible for the war and indicted as a war criminal.

The question put to MacArthur was whether it would be possible to carry out the policies of the occupation if the Emperor was put on trial. In essence, MacArthur was asked to make a political judgment, not a legal determination, that would decide the fate of the Emperor.

MacArthur's reply dated Jan. 25, 1946, addressed to Army Chief of Staff General Dwight Eisenhower. He characterized the Emperor as the equivalent of 20 military divisions. He concluded that the Emperor did not bear responsibility for the war, and that an indictment would force major changes in occupation plans because the whole nation would turn to resistance, all government institutions would collapse, and guerrilla warfare would take place in the mountains. This would make it necessary to station an occupation army of at least a million in Japan for many years.

Sparing the Emperor from punishment, or being tried as a war criminal helped make MacArthur's rule more popular and workable in the early days of the occupation. On one occasion an organization came into being with the fine name of the "Society for the Expression of Gratitude to the Occupation Forces for the Preservation of His Majesty."

During MacArthur's first meeting with the Emperor, which Hirohito himself initiated, the Emperor stated that he "deplored the war and had sought to stop it."

MacArthur then fixed his eyes on him and asked if that were true, why had he not been able to make his desire effective?

Hirohito replied," My people like me very much. Since they do, they would have simply locked me up in a lunatic asylum until the war was over, if I had made any protest about the war or worked for peace.

MIT historian professor John W. Dower, in his powerful book, *Embracing Defeat*, wrote, "By accepting defeat the Emperor offered himself as the embodiment of the nation's suffering, its ultimate victim, transforming the sacrifices of his people into his own agony. When he contemplated those of his subjects who had died in the war, the bereaved kin they left behind, the extraordinary difficulties all Japanese faced, he exclaimed: 'my vital organs are torn asunder.' For many of his listeners, this was the most moving part of his address. Some confessed to being overcome by a sense of shame and guilt that, in failing to live up to their sovereign's expectations, they caused him grief.

"To evoke such emotions in August 1945 was an impressive accomplishment. Close to 3 million Japanese were dead, many more wounded or seriously ill and the country was in ruins as a consequence of the war waged in the Emperor's name, yet it was his agony on which his loyal subjects were to dwell. For the Japanese their old world had been destroyed and they were forced to imagine a new one."

It is now known that, from the early days of the occupation, MacArthur believed the Emperor would assist his governing Japan, and he had no intention of indicting him as a war criminal. His reply, backed by his authority as the top commander in the field, put an end to the division in American policy on the treatment of the Emperor.

Aside from the major war criminals who were hung or imprisoned—as for the treatment of some war criminals, MacArthur explained, the difference between German Nazis and the Japanese was, in his judgment, considerable. He felt that "many Japanese could be excused for their prewar conduct because of their ignorance of American and European values. "But," he said, "the Germans should have known better. They were traitors to their own culture."

(1) U.S. Department of State, Foreign Relations of the United States, 1946, 8:395-97.

The civil liberties directive of October 1945, ordered the Japanese government to remove all restrictions on political freedoms, and all political prisoners released. As a result, the Communist party was the first party to emerge and organize. Between 1947 and 1949 membership increased from 300,000 to 3 million. They sought to gain ground by attacking the occupation administration as "an alien and degenerate colonial culture" being imposed upon the Japanese people by American imperialists. This caused MacArthur to crack down on the communist leadership.

It might be said that the Korean war and the communist invasion of the South proved that the overwhelming majority of Japanese were loyal to the occupation. By mid-1950 the country was all but denuded of American troops—yet not the faintest tremor or quiver of public emotion was directed against Americans.

Journalist Bob Considine of the *New York Journal-American* wrote that MacArthur himself described this in vivid language, "I can think of no finer tribute to the Japanese than their conduct during this difficult war in Korea. The question arose, "Now that we must strip our occupation forces will the Japanese sabotage the work of the past five years?"

"I did not deliberate five minutes on this for I knew the Japanese could be trusted implicitly." Then the Supreme Commander described how in short order he was reduced to cannibalizing remnants of just one division of 5,000 troops to occupy a country of 83 million that only five years before had fought against the Americans one of the most savage wars in history.

Most Japanese, according to Considine, were even friendlier to Americans than before. It was a massive tribute to—Japanese character and MacArthur's leadership.

As for myself, and in conclusion, I have often wondered why the defeat, occupation, rehabilitation and reconstruction of Japan wasn't America's greatest story of the 20th century? It has all the elements, war and peace; politics and economics; brutality and forgiveness.

Cost of post-war assistance to Japan

A March 2006 estimate by the Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress, found that the total U.S. assistance to Japan for the years of occupation (1946 - 1952 was roughly $2.2 billion ($15.2 billion in 2005 dollars).

At war's end the population of Japan was 83 million. Even before the war Japan had to import 15 percent of its food. In a hungry Japan population growth was a problem with one half million new mouths to feed every year.

Devastated by the war Japan became dependent on goodwill and trade with the United States, which was providing the country's defense, permitting Japan to devote its entire economy to peacetime development.

After the war Japan began the task of recovery and economic development. In the cites some people were starving. City dwellers were rushing to farming areas in what was called the "onion existence," peeling off layer after layer of possessions and exchanging them for food. For years Japan's population was kept from starvation by the free food from the United States. It would take time for Japan to develop its industry and exports to create self-sufficiency.

We all know of the successful recovery of Japan as evident on every shelf of every store in every county of the world.

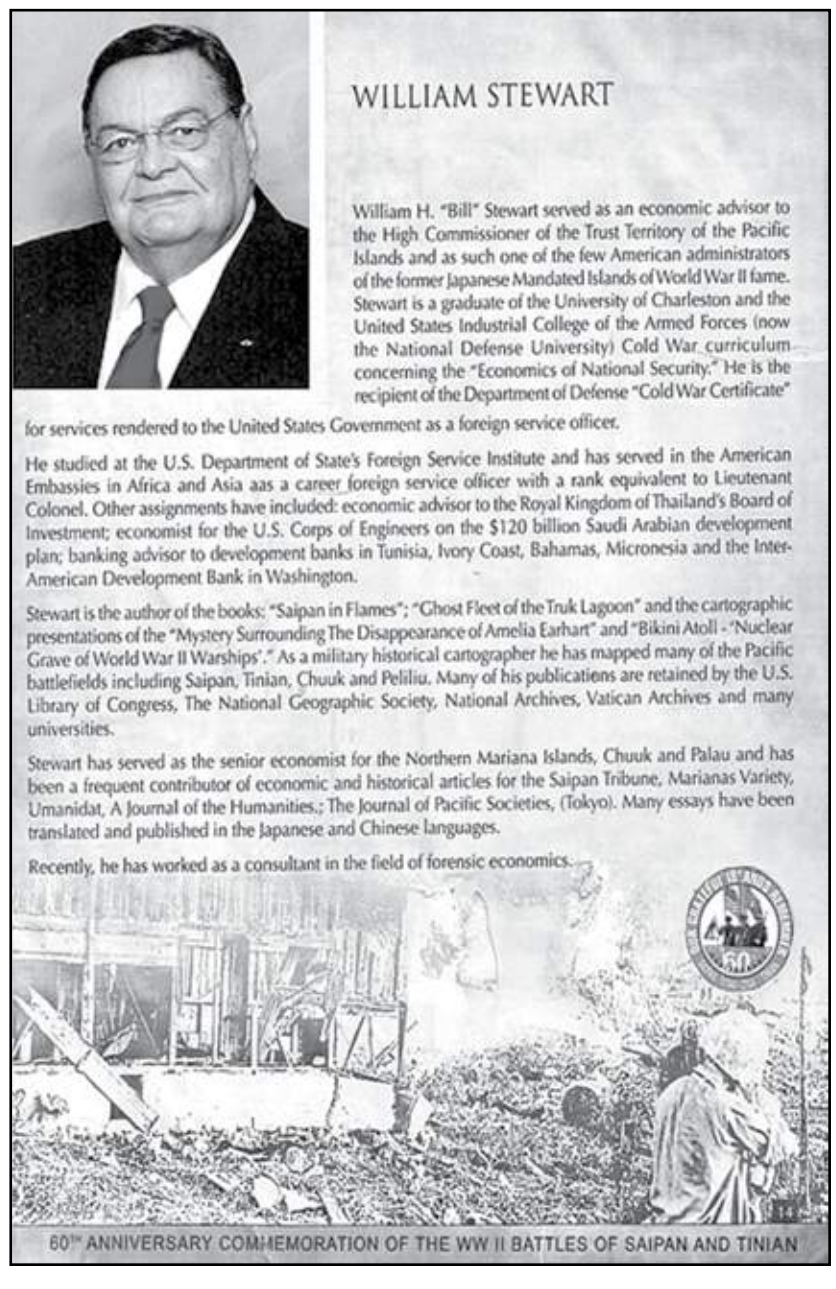
The Korean conflict started before the occupation with Japan ended.

Touching briefly on the Korean incident, as John Gunther observed in his book, *The Riddle of MacArthur*, there was something "Alice-in-Wonderland-ish" about the fact that MacArthur, from headquarters in Japan (an "enemy state"), and with full Japanese cooperation, directed a war against North Korea, the satellite of a power (the Soviet Union), that had the right (even if it did not exercise that right) to sit in Tokyo side by side with the Americans on an Allied Council.

"It is not unusual historically for an enemy to become an ally—or an ally to become an enemy. But it is unusual for a former ally (Russia) to support a satellite (North Korea) in a conflict fought from another country (Japan) by still another country (the United States) in the name of the United Nations (of which it is a member while at the same time insisting on its prerogative to sit in on treaty negotiations with Japan (its enemy) that would bring "peace" between Japan and its other enemy, the United States.

One wonders if the incongruousness, of this strange state of affairs and bizarre political situation ever crossed MacArthur's mind?

Editor's note: The author of this series has based the above on his extensive collection of WWII military books, maps, manuals, copies of declassified secret documents; cable intercepts, diaries, etc., as well as notes from personal interviews. This series was first presented by the author to the Anvil Club, University of Charleston.


WILLIAM STEWART
William H. "Bill" Stewart served as an economic advisor to the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and as such one of the few American administrators of the former Japanese Mandated Islands of World War II fame. Stewart is a graduate of the University of Charleston and the United States Industrial College of the Armed Forces (now the National Defense University) Cold War curriculum concerning the "Economics of National Security." He is the recipient of the Department of Defense "Cold War Certificate" for services rendered to the United States Government as a foreign service officer.
He studied at the U.S. Department of State's Foreign Service Institute and has served in the American Embassies in Africa and Asia aas a career foreign service officer with a rank equivalent to Lieutenant Colonel. Other assignments have included: economic advisor to the Royal Kingdom of Thailand's Board of Investment; economist for the U.S. Corps of Engineers on the $120 billion Saudi Arabian development plan; banking advisor to development banks in Tunisia, Ivory Coast, Bahamas, Micronesia and the Inter-American Development Bank in Washington.
Stewart is the author of the books: "Saipan in Flames"; "Ghost Fleet of the Truk Lagoon" and the cartographic presentations of the "Mystery Surrounding The Disappearance of Amelia Earhart" and "Bikini Atoll - 'Nuclear Grave of World War II Warships'." As a military historical cartographer he has mapped many of the Pacific battlefields including Saipan, Tinian, Chuuk and Peliliu. Many of his publications are retained by the U.S. Library of Congress, The National Geographic Society, National Archives, Vatican Archives and many universities.
Stewart has served as the senior economist for the Northern Mariana Islands, Chuuk and Palau and has been a frequent contributor of economic and historical articles for the Saipan Tribune, Marianas Variety, Umanidat, A Journal of the Humanities.; The Journal of Pacific Societies, (Tokyo). Many essays have been translated and published in the Japanese and Chinese languages.
Recently, he has worked as a consultant in the field of forensic economics.
60TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION OF THE WW II BATTLES OF SAIPAN AND TINIAN

Business

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Asian shares gain on economic optimism

TOKYO (AP)—Asian stock markets climbed Monday, encouraged by gains on Wall Street and Chinese economic indicators released over the weekend. Sentiment was bolstered by the China figures which suggested the world's No. 2 economy isn't slowing as abruptly as feared. Exporters in many countries, particularly in Asia, are relying on Chinese demand to offset sluggish growth in the U.S. and Europe. China's industrial production growth accelerated slightly to 13.9 percent year-on-year in August from July's 13.4 percent increase. Investment in factories and other fixed assets soared 24.8 percent while retail sales of consumer goods rose 18.4 percent due to better-than-expected auto sales.

Oil jumps above $77 on US crude pipeline leak

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices jumped above $77 a barrel Monday in Asia, extending gains for a second trading day after a leak forced the closure of a Chicago-area oil pipeline and disrupted supplies to U.S. Midwest refineries. Benchmark crude for October delivery was up 72 cents to $77.17 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose $2.20 to settle at $76.45 on Friday.

Skechers Concept Store opens in Garapan

Skechers, a global brand of lifestyle footwear, has reached new heights and is now making waves in the Micronesian region, with the opening of Skechers Concept Store on Saipan last July 2.

Skechers Concept Store on Saipan now joins the growing number of distributors, concept store owners, and factory stores worldwide.

The exclusive distributor of the brand known for its style and durability now provides Saipan a whole gamut of the latest Skechers designs and models for men, women, and children.

Skechers Concept Store prides itself in carrying Skechers' renowned signature brands, including Skechers Sport, Skechers Active, Skechers Kids, Shape-Ups, Skechers Cali, and Skechers for Work.

The recently opened store is ideally located across the TSL Plaza in Garapan, a walking distance from the tourist district.

Skechers Saipan owner Gabriel F. Boyer has been accustomed to the footwear brand, having been the brand distributor for 16 years through his now defunct store Sporticca Footwear at the Paseo de Marianas.

When the chance to be a part of the Skechers China Limited venture came, Boyer says he grabbed the opportunity without much ado, signing an agreement to be Skechers' exclusive distributor in Micronesia.

Formed in October 2007, Skechers China Limited is a joint venture of Skechers USA and Luen Thai enterprises owned by the Hong Kong-based conglomerate Luen Thai Group.

Skechers Concept Store opened in Garapan across the TSL Plaza last July 2. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Skechers China Limited has its operational headquarters, Skechers Gaungzhou Co., in China, making it possible to sell Skechers in the most populous country and the biggest market in the globe.

This business enterprise with Skechers China Limited prompted Boyer to close down the old store and open up the Skechers Concept Store, the first here in the region. "We are here and we want to Skecherize Micronesia," Boyer said.

According to him, what began as merely a footwear brand in California in 1992 has ventured, quite remarkably to all kinds of items you can think of, making it a one-stop shop experience for consumers to enjoy.

"Skechers has almost every conceivable thing, from shoes to socks, belts, backpacks, sunglasses, and eyeglasses," says Boyer.

Despite the global economic downturn, Boyer believes the famous brand has the hype that can turn the situation around.

"Now they're seeing the name Skechers… The power of the brand is starting to show… The brand sells," says Boyer.

Indeed it does. With Skechers' location, Boyer admits that sales have doubled compared to the old store, having been open to the public for only two months.

"Accessibility is very important… The location now is way better because it's more accessible and more visible to traffic," says Boyer.

He disclosed that while majority of the Concept's customers are members of the local community, they still get a bulk Russian and Japanese tourist visiting their store.

Skechers Concept takes pride in having about 5,000 pairs of the hottest styles and comfortable shoes in stock. Boyer says he gets items shipped to the store roughly once a month, with the most recent shipment a couple of weeks ago bringing in 600 additional pairs.

According to Boyer, the store gets most of its merchandise from Hong Kong but also receives a handful of products from the United States. He says items coming in from Hong Kong, which offer mainly whole sizes are rather tailored to Asian customers while those from the U.S. Mainland suit the needs of bigger sizes.

Skechers Concept also carries a collection of other established fashion street brands like 310 Premium Footwear, Zoo York, and Unlimited by Marc Ecko.

Boyer says the community can look forward to lots of upcoming sales and promotions from the Skechers Concept Store within the year. In fact, the store just finished last weekend its Back-to-School sale in time for the opening of classes.

Discover another shopping haven at the Skechers Concept Store in Garapan. The store is open every day, including holidays, from 10am to 10pm. For more information, visit the store or contact 233-1001 or 1016. ***(PR)***

Boehner says he'd support a middle-class tax cut

WASHINGTON (AP)—House Minority Leader John Boehner says he would vote for President Obama's plan to extend tax cuts only for middle-class earners, not the wealthy, if that were the only option available to House Republicans.

Boehner, R-Ohio, said it is "bad policy" to exclude the highest-earning Americans from tax relief during the recession, and later Sunday he accused the White House of "class warfare." But he said he wouldn't block the breaks for middle-income individuals and families if Democrats won't support the full package.

Income tax cuts passed under President George W. Bush will expire at the end of this year unless Congress acts and Obama signs the bill. Obama said he would support continuing the lower tax rates for couples earning up to $250,000 or single taxpayers making up to $200,000. But he and the Democratic leadership in Congress refused to back continued lower rates for the fewer than 3 percent of Americans who make more than that.

The cost of extending the tax cuts for everyone for the next 10 years would approach $4 trillion, according to congressional estimates. Eliminating the breaks for the top earners would reduce that bill by about $700 billion.

Boehner's comments signaled a possible break in the logjam that has prevented passage of a tax bill, although Republicans would still force Democrats to vote on their bigger tax-cut package in the final weeks before the November congressional elections.

AP

In this April 14, 2010 file photo, House Minority Leader John Boehner of Ohio, left, and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell of Ky., talk to reporters outside the White House in Washington.

"I want to do something for all Americans who pay taxes," Boehner said in an interview taped Saturday for "Face the Nation" on CBS. "If the only option I have is to vote for some of those tax reductions, I'll vote for it. ... If that's what we can get done, but I think that's bad policy. I don't think that's going to help our economy."

White House press secretary Robert Gibbs issued a statement Sunday saying, "We welcome John Boehner's change in position and support for the middle class tax cuts, but time will tell if his actions will be anything but continued support for the failed policies that got us into this mess."

Boehner responded to that press release with one of his own. "Instead of resorting to tired old class warfare rhetoric, pitting one working American against another, the president and the Democratic leadership should start working with us this week to ensure a fair and open debate to pass legislation to cut spending and freeze tax rates without any further delay," he said.

Austan Goolsbee, new chairman of the White House Council of Economic Advisers, said on ABC's "This Week" that he hopes that Democratic lawmakers who also want an across-the-board extension will join Obama and others in the party in supporting legislation aimed at the middle class before the November elections.

In response to Boehner's initial comments, Goolsbee said, "If he's for that, I would be happy."

With congressional elections less than two months away, both parties have been working to score points with voters generally unhappy with Congress. Democrats are bearing the brunt of voter anger over a stubborn recession, a weak job market and a high-spending government, giving the GOP an opening for taking back control of the House and possibly the Senate.

Global banking rules aim to balance safety, growth

BASEL, Switzerland (AP)—Banks will have to significantly increase their capital reserves under rules endorsed Sunday by the world's major central banks, which are trying to prevent another financial collapse without impeding the fragile economic recovery.

The new banking rules are designed to strengthen bank finances and rein in excessive risk-taking, but some banks have protested that they may dampen the recovery by forcing them to reduce the lending that fuels economic growth.

Forcing banks to keep more capital on hand will restrict the amount of loans they can make, but it will make them better able to withstand the blow if many of those loans go sour. The rules also are intended to boost confidence that the banking system won't repeat past mistakes.

Under current rules, banks must hold back at least 4 percent of their balance sheet to cover their risks. This mandatory reserve—known as tier 1 capital—would rise to 4.5 percent by 2013 under the new rules and reach 6 percent in 2019.

In addition, banks would be required to keep an emergency reserve known as a "conservation buffer" of 2.5 percent. In total, the amount of rock-solid reserves each bank is expected to have by the end of the decade will be 8.5 percent of its balance sheet.

U.S. officials including Federal Reserve chairman Ben Bernanke issued a joint statement calling the new standards a "significant step forward in reducing the incidence and severity of future financial crises."

European Central Bank president Jean-Claude Trichet, chairman of the committee of central bankers and bank supervisors that worked on the new rules, called the agreement "a fundamental strengthening of global capital standards" that will encourage both growth and stability.

Representatives of the Fed, the ECB and other major central banks agreed to the deal Sunday at a meeting in Basel, Switzerland. It still has to be presented to leaders of the Group of 20 forum of rich and developing countries at a meeting in November and ratified by national governments before it comes into force.

The agreement, known as Basel III, is seen as a cornerstone of the global financial reforms proposed by governments stung by the experience of having to bail out some ailing banks to avoid wider economic collapse.

Fred Cannon, a banking analyst at Keefe, Bruyette & Woods, said the rules probably will reduce bank profit margins and lending from the heights they reached in 2007. But he added that before 2000 or so, many U.S. banks were already operating with enough capital reserves to meet the new minimums.

Nation

Fellow Americans' suspicions frustrate US Muslims

NEW YORK (AP)—Nine years of denouncing terrorism, of praying side-by-side with Jews and Christians, of insisting "I'm American, too." None of it could stop a season of hate against Muslims that made for an especially fraught Sept. 11. Now, Muslims are asking why their efforts to be accepted in the United States have been so easily thwarted.

"We have nothing to apologize for, we have nothing to fear, we have nothing to be ashamed of, we have nothing that we're guilty of—but we need to be out there and we need to express this," said Imam Mohammed Ibn Faqih in a sermon at the Islamic Institute of Orange County in Anaheim, Calif., the day before the 9/11 anniversary.

AP

In this Sept. 10, 2010 file photo, an American flag adorns the stage as worshippers gather for prayer during Eid al-Fitr morning services marking the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan at Toyota Park in Bridgeview, Ill.

There is no simple way for American Muslims to move forward.

Images of violence overseas in the name of Islam have come to define the faith for many non-Muslims at home. The U.S. remains at war in Afghanistan, and although America has formally declared an end to its combat operations in Iraq, U.S. troops there continue to fight alongside Iraqi forces.

Within the U.S., domestic terror has become a greater threat, while ignorance about what Islam teaches is widespread. More than half of respondents in a recent poll by the Pew Forum for Religion & Public Life said they knew little or nothing about the Muslim faith.

Some U.S. Muslims say their national organizations share the blame, for answering intricate questions about Islam with platitudes, and failing to fully examine the potential for extremism within their communities. Muslim leaders often respond when terrorists strike by saying Islam is a "religion of peace" that has no role in the violence instead of confronting the legitimate concerns of other Americans, these Muslim critics say.

Coast to coast, tea partiers promote their cause

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—Originally billed as a chance to reflect on the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, a series of raucous tea party rallies around the country on Sunday ended up focusing almost entirely on an event still to come—the Nov. 2 election.

"We are your everyday, average, churchgoing families, we represent the majority of people in this nation, and we're ready to take back our government," said Pam Pinkston of Fair Oaks, Calif., one of about 4,000 people to attend Sacramento's "United to the Finish" gathering.

Thousands of tea party activists also turned up at rallies in Washington, D.C., and St. Louis to spread their message of smaller government and focus their political movement on the pivotal congressional elections in November.

Several thousand people marched along Pennsylvania Avenue from the Washington Monument to the Capitol, many carrying signs reading "Congress You're Fired" and "Let Failures Fail and "Impeach Obama."

"It wouldn't bother me to make a clean sweep," said Michael Power of Decatur, Ala., endorsing term limits for members of Congress. "There are some good ones, but we can lose those."

Leslie and Gary Morrison of Redding drove 150 south to the former McClellan Air Force Base in Sacramento with their dog Phoebe, just two weeks after flying to Washington to attend a large rally hosted by conservative commentator Glenn Beck. They said they liked the feeling of solidarity at the tea party events.

"This is a way to get people focused before the election," Leslie Morrison said. "And it's a way to get the tea party's true numbers seen."

Many attending the various rallies wore red, white and blue clothing and carried yellow flags with the picture of a snake coiled above the inscription "Don't Tread On Me."

ACROSS THE NATION

Residents return home after Calif pipeline blowout

SAN BRUNO, Calif. (AP)—Residents returned Sunday to the ruined hillsides of their suburban San Francisco neighborhood, three days after a natural gas pipeline exploded into a deadly fireball. A nearby risky segment of the gas line was due to be replaced, the utility responsible said, because it ran through a heavily urbanized area and the likelihood of failure was "unacceptably high." That 30-inch diameter pipe a few miles north was installed in 1948, and was slated to be swapped for new, smaller pipe. California regulators ordered the utility, Pacific Gas and Electric, to survey all its natural gas lines in the state in hopes of heading off another disaster.

Second Colo. fire erupts, destroys at least 1 home

BOULDER, Colo. (AP)—Hundreds of people evacuated during one of Colorado's most destructive wildfires returned to their scorched homes Sunday, just as residents about 35 miles to the northeast fled houses threatened by another fast-moving blaze. By sundown, the second fire had destroyed at least one Loveland-area home while threatening other structures. It burned about 600 acres, or just under a square mile, forcing authorities to pull some resources from the Boulder fire. Meanwhile, firefighters in Boulder—surrounded by the dreary sight of burnt trees, burned-out vehicles and uneven patches of blackened ground—inched closer to fully containing the blaze that has burned 10 square miles. Authorities continued to investigate what sparked the fire.

5 slayings, suicide rock rural Ky. trailer court

JACKSON, Ky. (AP)—Nothing seemed amiss when Robert Collins first heard someone had fired gunshots in his trailer park in rural eastern Kentucky. After all, it wasn't uncommon for the neighbors to let a few rounds loose for stress relief or target practice. When the 50-year-old heard six of his neighbors were dead, including the shooter, it gave the routine sound of gunfire new meaning. "This is unbelievable, really," Collins said Sunday morning. "It's just got everybody scared around here. Just frightened that it happened."

World

China mass measles vaccination plan sparks outcry

BEIJING (AP)—China's plans to vaccinate 100 million children and come a step closer to eradicating measles has set off a popular outcry that highlights widening public distrust of the authoritarian government after repeated health scandals.

Since the Health Ministry announced the World Health Organization-backed measles vaccination plan last week, authorities have been flooded with queries and Internet bulletin boards have been plastered with worried messages. Conspiracy theories saying the vaccines are dangerous have spread by cell phone text messages.

The public skepticism has even been covered by state-run media, which noted the lack of trust was about more than vaccines.

"Behind the public's panic over the rumors is an expression of the citizens' demands for security and a crisis in confidence," a columnist wrote in the Chongqing Daily newspaper.

"The lack of trust toward our food and health products was not formed in one day," said the Global Times newspaper. "Repairing the damage and building credibility will take a very long time. The public health departments need to take immediate action on all fronts."

In recent years, government agencies have dragged their feet or withheld information about the spread of SARS, bird flu and, last month, an outbreak of cholera. China's slow response to SARS, or severe acute respiratory syndrome, was widely blamed for causing the outbreak that swept the globe in 2003, and led to deep mistrust both internally and internationally.

Milk products contaminated with industrial chemicals are still found despite mass recalls and several criminal convictions, including executions, after tainted infant formula sickened 300,000 babies and killed at least six two years ago.

In referendum, Turks reject military-era laws

ISTANBUL (AP)—Turks approved sweeping changes to their military-era constitution Sunday—a referendum hailed by the government as a leap toward full democracy in line with its troubled bid to join the European Union.

With 99 percent of the vote counted, 58 percent had cast ballots in favor of the constitutional amendments, state-run TRT television said. About 42 percent voted "no," heeding opposition claims that the reforms would shackle the independence of the courts.

The referendum on 26 amendments to a constitution crafted after a 1980 military coup had become a battleground between the Islamic-oriented government and traditional power elites—including many in the armed forces—who fear Turkey's secular principles are under threat.

Voter turnout was 78 percent, and the result amounted to a vote of confidence in the ruling Justice and Development Party ahead of elections next year.

"We have crossed a historic threshold toward advanced democracy and the supremacy of law," Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan said at his party headquarters in Istanbul.

"The regime of tutelage in Turkey will now come to an end," he said. "The mentality will be so that those enthusiastic for military coups will see their enthusiasms stuck inside them."

Mexican marines arrest presumed drug kingpin

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexican marines captured Sergio Villarreal Barragan, a presumed leader of the embattled Beltran Leyva cartel and one of the country's most-wanted fugitives, in a raid Sunday in the central state of Puebla, the government said.

The alleged capo known as "El Grande" did not put up any resistance when he was arrested along with two accomplices as they left a residence in Puebla city, according to government security spokesman Alejandro Poire. The raid involved 30 Navy marines, five vehicles and a helicopter.

"This is a new and resounding blow by the federal government against crime, given the high rank and dangerousness of this person inside one of the country's most extensive criminal organizations which has now been deeply weakened," Poire said in a statement.

Villarreal's capture is the fourth major blow delivered to drug cartels by the government of President Felipe Calderon in the past year.

First came the death of Arturo Beltran Leyva, the top leader of Beltran Leyva cartel, in a raid outside Mexico City on Dec. 16, 2009. Then soldiers killed the Sinaloa cartel's No. 3 capo, Ignacio "Nacho" Coronel, on July 29. And on Aug. 30 federal police announced the capture of Edgar Valdez Villarreal, alias "La Barbie." The two men are not related.

Villarreal, "El Grande," appears on an Attorney General's Office list of Mexico's most-wanted drug traffickers, with a reward of just over $2 million offered for his capture. He faces at least seven investigations for alleged drug trafficking and organized crime, Poire said.

WORLD BRIEFS

Japan frees 14 crew members of Chinese ship

TOKYO (AP)—Japan freed 14 crew members of a Chinese ship Monday nearly a week after their vessel collided with two Japanese patrol boats near disputed southern islets, but kept the captain in custody in a case that has angered China. After authorities had questioned them, the 14 men left on a Chinese chartered plane that was sent to pick them up from where they were on a nearby Japanese island, said the Foreign Ministry, which arranged the flight back. Japan is also releasing the Chinese ship, which will be operated by a set of crew members who were flown in on the Chinese plane, the ministry said.

Newborn baby found alive in Manila airport garbage

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Authorities in the Philippines on Monday tried to trace the mother who gave birth then abandoned her newborn baby on a flight from the Middle East. The baby boy, covered in blood and wrapped in tissue paper, was found by an airport security officer in a garbage bag unloaded from the plane that arrived from Bahrain on Sunday. He was brought to an airport clinic, where doctors and nurses examined him and cleaned him, wrapped him in cloth and gave him a bottle of milk, airport officials said. "When we initially saw the baby, his color was not right. His color should be pinkish," airport doctor Maria Teresa Agores told reporters. But after the baby was cleaned, "he regained his natural color."

Christian worshippers attacked in Indonesia

BEKASI, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesia's president ordered police to hunt down and arrest assailants who stabbed a Christian worshipper in the stomach and beat a minister in the head with a wooden plank as they headed to prayers. Neither of the injuries appeared to be life-threatening. No one claimed responsibility for Sunday's attacks. But suspicion immediately fell on Islamic hardliners who have repeatedly warned members of the Batak Christian Protestant Church against worshipping on a field housing their now-shuttered church.

Overdrive

Kia brings much-needed refinement to 2011 Sorento

MCT

Kia's first U.S.-built vehicle, the Sorento SUV, offers a third row of seats and appealing looks to compete with popular small SUVs like the Chevrolet Equinox, Ford Escape, Dodge Journey and Toyota RAV4.

By STEVEN COLE SMITH
THE ORLANDO SENTINEL

At first glance, the 2011 Kia Sorento may not seem like that much of a revelation. After all, the original 2003 Sorento, like the test model, was powered by a 3.5-liter V-6, and had a starting price of $19,995.

There the similarities end. This new Kia shares a nameplate and the SUV distinction with the original, but this is an entirely new vehicle. For the first time, the Sorento is a crossover SUV, meaning it shares its basic platform with a car, not a truck. The original Sorento was proudly truck-based, using a frame with the body bolted onto it, rather than a one-piece chassis like other crossovers.

This new Sorento might not be quite as rugged as the original, but with the optional all-wheel-drive, it's still beefy enough to handle mild to moderate off-road duties, and light towing.

The 2011 Sorento is also the first product built at Kia's new plant in Georgia. The transmission is still imported from Korea, but the majority of the other bits and pieces in the vehicle are from the U.S. Sometimes minor glitches show up in early products from a new plant, but everything fit just as it should, at least on the test vehicle.

Which, incidentally, was a Sorento EX, the top-of-the-line model, and with a list price of $34,840, a long way from that $19,995 base price. Even that bargain model, though, gives you a lot for the money. Instead of the EX's 276-horsepower, 3.5-liter engine and six-speed automatic transmission, the base model has a 2.4-liter, 175-horsepower four-cylinder with a six-speed manual transmission.

I've driven that four-cylinder engine in other vehicles and found it satisfactory. But this 3.5-liter V-6 has plenty of power, delivers smoothly, and the six-speed automatic transmission downshifts eagerly to maximize the engine's muscle. Fuel mileage is still reasonably good at an EPA-rated 19 mpg city, 25 mpg highway.

The old Sorento was rear-wheel-drive, with optional four-wheel-drive, and this new one is front-wheel-drive, with optional all-wheel-drive. The difference? With all-wheel-drive, the Sorento cruises along powering only the front wheels until the onboard computer senses slippage, and then some power is transferred to the rear wheels. At the touch of a button, the Sorento has a locking center differential that evenly distributes power to all four wheels, useful for off-roading and driving in deep snow.

Our Sorento was loaded, with leather upholstery, a navigation system, twin power sunroofs, a 10-speaker Infinity sound system and 18-inch tires on 10-spoke chromed wheels. Against the black paint—or "Ebony Black," said the window sticker—the Sorento's exterior chrome sparkled in contrast.

Inside, the heated, power front seats were exceptionally comfortable. Rear seats are a bit firm, but fine even for adults. The optional ($700) third-row seat is suitable for kids, cramped and difficult to access for grownups. That seat flips down to form a flat floor, which is good, because with that seat in place, there is only a narrow 9.1 cubic feet of luggage space, enough only for a couple of medium-sized grocery bags. Flip the third seat down, and there's a healthy 37 cubic feet of space. The temporary spare tire is located beneath the body, because with the third seat, there's no room inside the cabin.

Colleagues have complained that the new Sorento has a relatively rough ride, but I disagree. The suspension is firm, which helps cornering capability, but the ride is hardly punishing, even on rough pavement. In fact, the Sorento is an excellent highway cruiser, comfortable even after long stints behind the wheel. Fuel mileage averaged 20.7 mpg, lower than I'd hoped, but given the V-6's ample and unexpected power, acceptable.

The old Sorento was patterned after the then-dominant SUV, the truck-based Ford Explorer, and it speaks to the changes in the SUV market that for 2011, both the Sorento and the Explorer are now crossovers. Kia has done an excellent job in updating the 2011 Sorento, and so far, its early sales figures are rewarding the effort.

NUTS & BOLTS

2011 KIA SORENTO EX:

- Base price: $19,995
- Price as tested: $34,840
- Engine: 3.5-liter, 276-horsepower V-6
- Transmission: Six-speed automatic
- Length: 183.9 inches
- Wheelbase: 106.3 inches
- EPA rating: 19 mpg city, 25 mpg highway
- Nutshell: Kia much improves the Sorento by making it a cool crossover SUV.

Carbon buildup could cause rapping noise in engine

By PAUL BRAND
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: My 2002 Chevy Tahoe, with the 5.3-liter V8 engine and 93,000 miles on it, makes a rapping noise just after a cold start. After a few seconds, it disappears, and the engine is the quietest-running and most powerful truck engine I've ever owned.

We do no towing or hard driving, change oil and filter about every 5,000 to 6,000 miles or when the "change oil" light appears, and do lots of preventive maintenance on the vehicle. This is the second GM truck with the same engine I've owned, and they both made the noise. A mechanic told me the noise is normal for this engine.

ANSWER: Normal? No. Somewhat common? Yes. My Alldata automotive database pulled up GM service bulletin 01-06-01-028A from March 2003, describing a cold-start knock that fades after a few seconds caused by carbon buildup on the piston and cylinder wall. The bulletin does not recommend trying to repair it and says it doesn't hurt the engine's performance or shorten its life—but decarbonizing the intake system and combustion chambers with a product like SeaFoam can't hurt, and might help.

■ ■ ■

Q: The windshield wipers don't work on my 1997 Ford F-150. Each time I replace the fuse and try the wipers, they will oscillate a couple of times and then blow the fuse again. I've taken the truck to several mechanics, the dealer and an auto electric shop with no luck. Do you have any suggestions?

A: Ford outlines a simple test of the wiper motor in their service literature. With the wiper motor disconnected from the wiper linkage, amperage to the low-speed terminal should be 3.5 amperes or less, and 5.5 amperes or less from the high-speed terminal. If amperage draw is higher than that, the problem is the wiper motor itself. If amperage draw is within specs, check for mechanical binding in any and all of the wiper linkage.

■ ■ ■

Q: My daughter has a 2003 Ford Focus with aluminum rims. They leak air, and I'm not sure what the fix is. I've heard you shouldn't use the "fix-leak" stuff in a spray can, but I'm not sure why. Can anything be done to these rims to keep them from leaking air?

A: Air leaks with alloy wheels are fairly common, particularly with the second or third set of tires mounted on the rims. It's often caused by corrosion around the bead area where the tire touches the rim. Sometimes the alloy wheel itself is porous enough to allow a slow air loss.

And you've heard correctly: The tire "stuff" in an aerosol can should not be considered a repair. This material is just a stop-gap measure to get your vehicle to a service station or tire shop for a proper tire repair or replacement. Some of these products use a flammable propellant, so make sure the shop is informed before they attempt a repair.

Most tire shops can stop the air loss by thoroughly cleaning the bead surface of the rim and applying a special sealant to the inside of the rim.

■ ■ ■

Q: I set the air-conditioning unit on my 1999 Honda CR-V to the coldest temperature, but the air blowing from the vents varies from cold to warm. I had the unit recharged, but the problem continues.

A: If the air blows warmer as you accelerate, this could be normal. The engine management system disengages the A/C compressor when the engine is under heavy load. Poor engine performance could magnify this.

A diagnostic test might identify a problem with the air mix control motor or the evaporator temperature sensor.

■ ■ ■

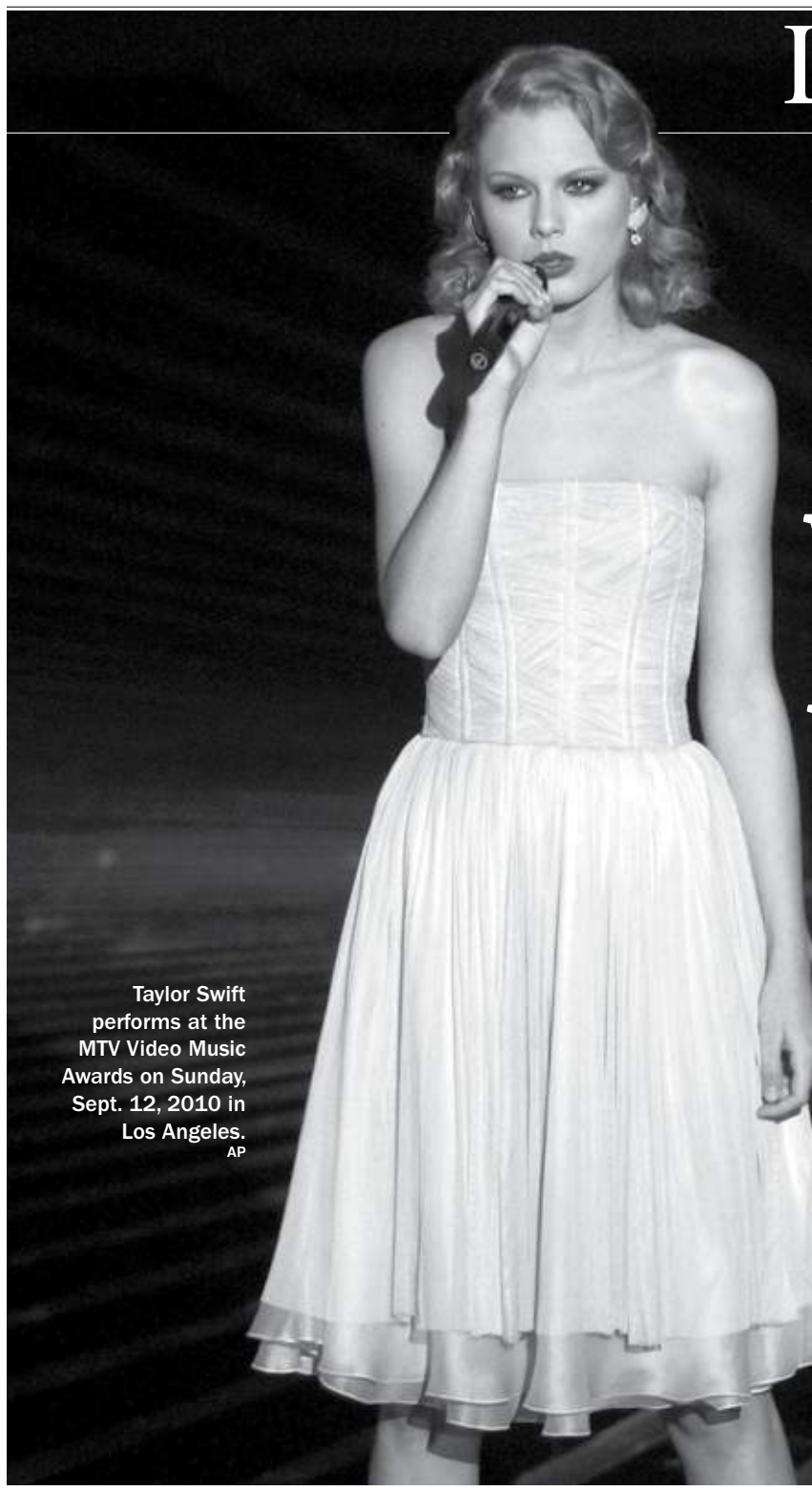
Q: I have a '99 Chevy Metro that has exhibited a chronic problem since Day One. After being driven for approximately 30 minutes, it seems to lose brake boost. The pedal goes rock-hard. The brakes continue to function, but considerably more force is required on the pedal to slow the car. The weird part of this malady is that the next time the brakes are applied, they almost always function normally. I realize that it's a safety issue—any ideas for a possible remedy?

A: You're describing a loss of vacuum power assist available to the brake master cylinder. It's possible that a lack of engine vacuum due to restrictions in the air intake or exhaust systems or some other engine performance problem is the cause. Otherwise, look for a vacuum leak in the vacuum booster or its check valve. To check this, with the engine fully warmed up and idling, shut off the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system completely, then shut off the engine. After the engine stops, there should be enough residual vacuum in the booster to allow several brake applications before the pedal gets "rock-hard."

Paul Brand, author of "How to Repair Your Car," is an automotive troubleshooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver. Readers may write to him at: Star Tribune, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488 or via e-mail at paulbrand@startribune.com. Please explain the problem in detail and include a daytime phone number. It isn't always possible to send a personal reply.

Life & Style

Emotional Kanye closes VMAs; Gaga wins 8



Taylor Swift performs at the MTV Video Music Awards on Sunday, Sept. 12, 2010 in Los Angeles. AP

Lady Gaga arrives at the MTV Video Music Awards on Sunday, Sept. 12, 2010 in Los Angeles. AP

BY NEKESA MUMBI MOODY
AP Music Writer

WINNERS' LIST

A list of winners at Sunday night's 2010 MTV Video Music Awards in Los Angeles:

- ***Collaboration:*** Lady Gaga featuring Beyonce, "Telephone"
- ***Female video:*** Lady Gaga, "Bad Romance"
- ***Male video:*** Eminem, "Not Afraid"
- ***Hip-hop video:*** Eminem, "Not Afraid"
- ***New artist:*** Justin Bieber featuring Ludacris, "Baby"
- ***Pop video:*** Lady Gaga, "Bad Romance"
- ***Rock video:*** 30 Seconds to Mars, "Kings and Queens"
- ***Dance music video:*** Lady Gaga, "Bad Romance"
- ***Art direction:*** Florence and the Machine, "Dog Days Are Over"
- ***Choreography:*** Lady Gaga, "Bad Romance"
- ***Cinematography:*** Jay Z and Alicia Keys, "Empire State of Mind"
- ***Direction:*** Lady Gaga, "Bad Romance"
- ***Editing:*** Lady Gaga, "Bad Romance"
- ***Special effects:*** Muse, "Uprising"
- ***Breakthrough video:*** The Black Keys, "Tighten Up"
- ***Video of the year:*** Lady Gaga, "Bad Romance"

Ke$ha, Deadmau5 celebrate before the VMA festivities

WEST HOLLYWOOD, California (AP)—The MTV Video Music Awards were saluted by the likes of party girl Ke$ha, daring rapper B.o.B, hip-hop cat Deadmau5 and a "Jersey Shore" duo at a series of soirees held along the Sunset Strip on the eve of Sunday's big show downtown at the Nokia Theatre, where Lady Gaga and Eminem are poised to win multiple moonman trophies.

Partygoers kicked off Saturday evening with rounds of pingpong at Spin magazine's pre-VMA party inside the chic Mondrian Hotel. Dan Black, the lanky British musician nominated for two moonman trophies for his video for "Symphonies," served as guest DJ while wayward pingpong balls sporadically tapped across the hotel floor between attendees' legs.

Next door at the House of Blues, Ke$ha started the party with a raucous concert benefiting Lifebeat, the music industry organization promoting HIV and AIDS awareness. She strutted across the stage in glittery hot pants and gold face paint, later donning long fuzzy animal hats with her band and back-up singers for "Your Love is My Drug."

"I'm going to the VMAs for the first ... time!" she said using language that would get her bleeped at the ceremony.

Ke$ha ended her performance with her hit "Tik Tok" as she attempted to smash a pinata while confetti rained down on the crowd. Afterward, as stagehands prepared for a performance from B.o.B., concertgoers watched—and some played—"Dance Central," an upcoming groovy Xbox 360 choreography game that uses a camera to detect players' hip-hop moves.

Farther away at a sleek mansion in the Hollywood Hills overlooking a cloud-covered Los Angeles, hundreds of revelers crowded around Deadmau5 inside the transformed V-Moda Fortress. The showy DJ, who will be performing with the likes of Jason Derulo and Robyn at Sunday's show, only occasionally donned his iconic mouse headgear at the packed party.

Dancers clad in itty-bitty black bikinis swayed their hips atop a nearby pool table while chefs cooked crepes in the kitchen. Paul "DJ Pauly D" Del Vecchio and Vinny Guadagnino from the reality TV show "Jersey Shore" held court outside the party. At one point during the evening, Del Vecchio chatted up DJ Paul Oakenfold, proving anything is possible when the VMAs are in town.

Taylor Swift absolved Kanye West of last year's onstage sin with one somber song, and West, also in song, beat himself up once again over his misbehavior.

The Swift-West drama took center stage at Sunday's MTV Video Music Awards in Los Angeles, with both superstars either addressing or dancing around the incident that won't die.

Both dramatic performances delivered on pre-show hype of a Kanye-Taylor sequel and overshadowed the evening's other moments, including Lady Gaga's eight-win sweep. Among her awards was video of the year for "Bad Romance."

The stage for both songs was set last year, when West interrupted Swift's acceptance speech, saying her trophy should have gone to Beyonce. The incident left Swift with hurt feelings, but West was the one who was seriously damaged, as intense backlash made him Mr. Unpopularity.

While West didn't address the trophy-gate incident directly onstage, he rapped and sang a song that mocked the boorish behavior that has upstaged his music: "I always find something wrong; you've been putting up with my (expletive) for too long," he said, before launching into the an unprintable chorus, which included the line: "Let's have a toast to scumbags."

West was booed by some members of the audience prior to his performance.

While Swift is known for skewering those who have done her wrong in song, for West, she offered an olive branch with her song "Innocent," written earlier this year: "Everyone of us has messed up, too ... I hope you remember today is never too late to be brand new."

The 20-year-old's poignant and powerful ode didn't criticize West. Instead she sympathized with his difficult time in the spotlight and West's own admissions that his ego has often gotten in his own way.

"Thirty-two and still growing up now; who you are is not what you did," she sang softly, adding: "You're still an innocent."

She then appeared from the audience to skip offstage.

But the evening wasn't just the Swift-West show: Lady Gaga was the night's top winner, snatching trophies including best female video. She was also the most outrageously dressed—and that's saying something, giving Katy Perry's barely there outfit and Ke$ha's garbage bag-dress

Gaga accepted her video of the year award with an outfit sure to anger PETA: a dress and chapeau made of what seemed to be cuts of raw beef, including a meat purse. It was one of her three zany outfits of the evening: she arrived at the awards in a spectacular outfit by the late Alexander McQueen: A Victorian-inspired gown and a Mohawk feather headdress atop a long white wig, with monstrous stilettos that made her look as she was on stilts. Later, she changed into a black dress so overflowing she needed help to get onstage to accept on of her trophies.

Cher—an over-the-top diva from a different era—gave Gaga her best-video award and noted she had been raising eyebrows while Lady Gaga "was still Baby Gaga."

Gaga was teary-eyed, and sang the title of her new album as she accepted the last award: "Born This Way."

Compared to the pathos of Swift and West, and Gaga being Gaga, there were few other highlights, despite performances from Usher, Eminem and Rihanna, Justin Bieber and Linkin Park, and appearances by Nicki Minaj and the cast of MTV's own "Jersey Shore."

Host Chelsea Handler gave the show its traditional bawdiness, though her jokes often fell flat, though she did have a few zingers, most of them vulgar.

A pre-taped portion of her opening featured the host getting spanked multiple times by show participants in a backstage hallway before running into the recently freed Lindsay Lohan, who also gave her a swat.

"Have you been drinking?" Lohan demanded from Handler. "Do you think anyone wants to work with a drunk? Take it from me! They don't!"

Later, on stage, Handler implored the all-star audience to get wild.

"I want to encourage everybody to be on their worst behavior," she said. "I want to turn this mother out. ... Get your tongues ready because I want those tongues shoved in places they're not supposed to be."

But it was a relatively tame night; perhaps, given West's antics last year, the stars had learned a lesson.

Survey: News consumers making transition

By DAVID BAUDER
AP TELEVISION WRITER

NEW YORK (AP) — American consumers are quickly making recent technology part of their news habits and are consequently spending more time following what's going on in the world, a survey released Sunday said.

People are spending an average of 57 minutes per day getting the news from television, radio and newspapers, the same as they did a decade ago, according to the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press. But they also spend an average of 13 minutes a day getting news online, making for a total amount of news time as high as any dating back to the mid-1990s, the organization said.

Roughly 33 percent of people surveyed said they went online for news the previous day, a number that goes up to 44 percent when cell phones, e-mail, social networks and podcasts are added, Pew said in the media consumption survey, which it takes every two years.

"It may be a sign of an era where news consumption will go back to the way it was," said Andrew Kohut, director of the Pew Research Center. "The transition from old to new is beginning to take place."

The survey found 26 percent of Americans said they read a newspaper in print the day before, compared to 38 percent in 2006. However, 17 percent of Americans said they read something on a newspaper's website the day before, up from 9 percent two years earlier.

Pew's survey also illustrated how many Americans are headed to their own corners in cable news viewing and radio listening. Eighty-four percent of people in liberal MSNBC talk show host Keith Olbermann's audience say they approve of President Barack Obama's job performance, with 80 percent of Rachel Maddow's audience saying the same thing.

At the same time, 7 percent of conservative Sean Hannity's Fox News Channel viewers and 9 percent of Rush Limbaugh's listeners say Obama is doing a good job, the survey said. Three quarters of Limbaugh, Hannity and Glenn Beck's audiences identify themselves as tea party supporters.

Forty percent of Republicans say they watch Fox News Channel regularly, compared to 18 percent a decade ago, a strong factor in the network's popularity, Pew said.

Pew researchers interviewed 3,006 adults via cell phones or land lines between June 8 and June 28. The margin of error is 2.5 percentage points.

Former Disney CEO reflects on ESPN, partnerships

LOS ANGELES (AP)—In hindsight, former Disney CEO Michael Eisner calls his decision in 1995 to buy CapCities/ABC, and with it, its crown jewel ESPN, "one of the best acquisitions maybe of that whole century."

Eisner says he was certain even back then that the sports network would take off, although it's easy to say so now that ESPN accounts for about half of Walt Disney Co.'s profits.

"We spent the $19 billion because we wanted ESPN," he said in a recent interview centered on Tuesday's release of his book, "Working Together: Why Great Partnerships Succeed." ''It wasn't an accident, no."

According to Eisner, 68, he met then-CBS Corp. CEO Larry Tisch, billionaire investor Warren Buffett, and CapCities/ABC CEO Tom Murphy in rapid succession at an annual get-together of media moguls in Sun Valley, Idaho. The men discussed a possible acquisition, and Eisner was faced with deciding which broadcaster to buy.

CBS, he recalled in the interview, "would have been half as expensive" as CapCities/ABC, but ESPN's growth rate was explosive and becoming more important.

"It wasn't even a question," he said recently.

Every time he had checked up on ESPN with Murphy, actual results blew past expectations, Eisner said.

He jumped on ESPN, which continues to notch impressive growth each year. The market research firm SNL Kagan expects the channel to pull in $6.9 billion in revenue this year, up from $5 billion in 2006.

CBS, which owns multiple channels, is bigger but has nowhere near the trajectory. Wall Street analysts surveyed by Thomson Reuters expect revenue this year of $14.1 billion, down slightly from four years ago.

AP
In this March 11, 2008 file photo, former Disney chief Michael Eisner participates in a question and answer panel at the SXSW Film and Interactive Festival in Austin, Texas.

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Residents Evil: Afterlife
Friday 4:30 7:30 10:00
Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:30 10:00
Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:30
Mon through Thurs 4:30 7:30
Mila Jovovich, Ali Larter
Action, Horror • Rated R
Synopsis
Milla Jovovich returns in this fourth entry of the Resident Evil franchise. The zombie actioner is poised to take place in Hong Kong, with Paul W.S. Anderson returning to pen the script and direct.

Machete
Friday 4:05 7:05 9:40
Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:40
Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:05
Mon through Thurs 4:05 7:05
Danny Trejo, Robert DeNiro
Action • Rated R
Synopsis
Robert Rodriguez makes good on expanding his Grindhouse fake trailer Machete into a feature film with this Overnight Productions picture. Danny Trejo will once again star as the knife-wielding vigilante who nearly dies in an assassination conspiracy, only to return later on and seek vengeance against those who wronged him. Robert De Niro, Lindsay Lohan, Jessica Alba, Steven Seagal, Don Johnson, and Jeff Fahey fill out the supporting cast.

Going The Distance
Friday 4:25 7:25 9:55
Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:55
Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:25
Mon through Thurs 4:25 7:25
Drew Barrymore, Justin Long
Comedy • Rated R
Synopsis
Drew Barrymore and Justin Long star as a couple who find their long-distance relationship wearing thin in this romantic comedy from director Nanette Burnstein. Geoff LaTulippe provides the screenplay for the New Line production.

The Last Exorcism
Friday 4:00 7:00 9:50
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:50
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Mon through Thurs 4:00 7:00
Patrick Fabian, Ashley Bell
Horror • Rated PG 13

Vampires Suck
Friday 4:15 7:15 9:45
Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:15 9:45
Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:15
Mon through Thurs 4:15 7:15
Matt Lanter, Chris Riggi
Comedy • Rated PG 13

The Expendables
Friday 4:10 7:20 9:30
Saturday 1:20 4:10 7:20 9:30
Sunday 1:20 4:10 7:20
Mon through Thurs 4:10 7:20
Sylvester Stallone, Jason Statham
War • Rated R

The Other Guys
Friday 4:20 7:10 9:35
Saturday 1:10 4:20 7:10 9:35
Sunday 1:10 4:20 7:10
Mon through Thurs 4:20 7:10
Mark Wahlberg, Will Farrell
Comedy • Rated PG 13

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French filmmaker Claude Chabrol dies at 80

PARIS (AP)—French director Claude Chabrol, one of the founders of the New Wave movement whose films probed the latent malice beneath the placid surface of bourgeois life, died on Sunday. He was 80.

Christophe Girard, who is responsible for cultural matters at Paris City Hall, announced the death on his blog. Other City Hall officials confirmed that Chabrol passed away, but declined to provide any details, including the cause of death.

A prolific director, Chabrol made more than 70 films and TV productions during his more than half-century-long career. His first movie, 1958's "Le Beau Serge" won him considerable critical acclaim and was widely considered a sort of manifesto for the New Wave, or "Nouvelle vague" movement—which reinvented the codes of filmmaking and revolutionized cinema starting in the late 1950s. The vastly influential movement also included directors like Francois Truffaut and Jean-Luc Godard.

Chabrol's movies focused on the French bourgeoisie, lifting the facade of respectability to reveal the hypocrisy, violence and loathing simmering just below the surface. Often suspenseful, his work drew comparisons with that of Alfred Hitchcock.

President Nicolas Sarkozy, speaking during his trip Sunday to the western Dordogne region, compared Chabrol to two giants of French letters, Rabelais and Balzac.

AP
French film director Claude Chabrol relaxes as he smokes a pipe in 1990.

Prime Minister Francois Fillon called him a "great director, producer and screenwriter (who) was one of the grand figures of the 'Nouvelle vague,' which revolutionized the style and techniques of cinema by looking at real experience, true life, that which is indiscreet and subtle."

Drivin' N Cryin's equipment stolen

ATLANTA (AP)—Atlanta-based rock band Drivin' N Cryin' has plenty of reason to cry: They'll be driving to their next gig without more than $50,000 of vintage and custom equipment that was swiped from a hotel.

A trailer packed with vintage amplifiers, custom guitars and an elaborate drum set was stolen from a hotel in Macon, Georgia, early Saturday hours after the band finished playing at a local theater, band manager Ken Green said.

"The guys were devastated. It's a big hit considering how busy they are—they do a minimum of 150 shows a year, and this is their living," he said. "Old equipment is like a pair of shoes. You break it in and you get comfortable. So this was a big deal."

The band had finished playing a Friday night gig at the Hummingbird Stage and Taproom and then grabbed a late dinner before retiring to a hotel in north Macon around 3:45 a.m. Saturday morning. When the members woke up hours later, the trailer had vanished.

"It was gone," Green said. "We think somebody followed us and waited until the lights were off."

'Resident Evil' movie capitalizes on slow weekend

NEW YORK (AP)—On a weekend that Hollywood was largely content to cede to football and late-summer barbecues, Sony-Screen Gems' "Resident Evil: Afterlife 3D" led the box office.

According to studio estimates, the horror film earned $27.7 million over the weekend, a total that exceeded expectations. It's the fourth "Resident Evil" film, all of which have starred Milla Jovovich. This installment opened better than the three previous movies.

"Resident Evil" was the only film in new release on the historically slow moviegoing weekend following the Labor Day holiday.

Screen Gems' "Takers," in its third week of release, came in second with $6.1 million. Last weekend's top film, the George Clooney thriller "The American," took in $5.9 million for Focus Features.

AP

Actress Milla Jovovich speaks during a press conference for her film "Resident Evil: Afterlife" in Tokyo Friday, Sept. 3, 2010.

Steve Harvey takes over as new 'Family Feud' host

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Steve Harvey says he's bringing change to "Family Feud" and viewers better get ready to laugh.

Harvey, who debuts as the game show's new host Monday, is calling on his decades in comedy to take the program in a new direction. He's already taped 100 episodes.

"I bet you there's not a funnier game show on TV. We've done some pretty incredible stuff so far," said Harvey, who continues to tour with his standup act and host a nationally syndicated radio program.

He hasn't been at a loss for inspiration, he said. Turns out that playing a game show in the studio, distracted by the audience, lights and noise, can be tougher than the competing families anticipated.

"You're not the genius you were at home on the couch. Some of these non-genius answers I get to comment on, and they give me plenty of material," Harvey said. Contestants try to guess the most popular answers to survey questions.

He's keeping the humor strictly G-rated for the syndicated show, the comic said.

"After 26 years of being a standup, I know how to work clean. I know how to keep it in the boundaries," said Harvey.

Would he bring his own family on to compete?

"No, I cannot expose my family on national TV. There's some ignorance that would come out of the mouths of my family that I might never recover from. My kids could go on 'Family Feud,' but my brothers, sisters, cousins - no," he said.

Harvey's TV credits include "Me and the Boys" and "The Steve Harvey Show," and he was part of "The Original Kings of Comedy" standup tour and DVD.

He replaces actor John O'Hurley, host of "Family Feud" for four seasons, who left to focus on stage work and a variety of business ventures.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

British Museum gets $38 million gift

LONDON (AP) — The British Museum says it is getting 25 million pounds ($38 million) from John Sainsbury, the former chairman of Britain's eponymous supermarket chain. The donation is one of the biggest gifts to the arts in recent decades and will help the world-renowned London institution fund an extension and preserve its cache of ancient artifacts. The donation also comes at a time of uncertainty for British cultural institutions, which are facing deep cuts in public funding as the new government works to balance the country's budget. The British Museum receives about 5 million visitors a year. Its collection includes the Rosetta Stone, the Lewis Chessmen, and the Elgin Marbles.

'Body Snatchers' actor McCarthy, 96, dies in Mass.

HYANNIS, Mass. (AP) -- Actor Kevin McCarthy, who played the frantic doctor trying to save his friends and neighbors in the science-fiction movie classic "Invasion of the Body Snatchers," has died at age 96. McCarthy died Saturday, said Cape Cod Hospital spokesman Dave Riley, who wouldn't reveal the cause of death or any other details. McCarthy's acting career took off in 1938 with his Broadway debut in "Abe Lincoln in Illinois." Soon after, he became an early member of the Actors Studio and was chosen by Elia Kazan to play Biff, the son of Willy Loman, in the London production of "Death of a Salesman." He repeated the role in the 1951 film starring Fredric March and earned an Oscar nomination as supporting actor. But while he would consistently win praise for his acting during a long and busy career, his most lasting fame would come for "Invasion of the Body Snatchers." In the 1956 film, he vainly tried to warn residents in his small town of the evil pod people from outer space who were quietly taking over the personalities of everyone on Earth.

Get ready for Beckham and her next fashion look

NEW YORK (AP)—Picture this: Victoria Beckham in a white matte gazar gown with sculptural pleated shoulders and a waistband adorned with linked microbeads.

The dress was part of the spring collection Beckham offered Sunday morning as part of New York Fashion Week at an elegant mansion off Fifth Avenue to a small, select group of editors, retailers and stylists.

"I pushed myself with this dress," she said, vowing to wear it to the next big fashion event.

The Cadillac-pink shift dress with an asymmetrical, curved neckline is also headed to her personal wardrobe as a daytime traveling dress, and the masculine leather weekender that's part of her new handbag collection can be for husband, David Beckham.

"I had to do something David would use," she said with a smile. Of course, there's a Victoria bag, too—a polished, squarish shape.

The gloss jacquard fabric she used for some shorter dresses was stiff and industrial, but the shades of opal, purple and gray kept those pieces from crossing the line to techno. And a white flare dress had a subtle gray print and delicate sheer stripes on the skirt, offering her own spin on what seems to be a must-have trend.

She said she took "a meter and a half" of bright purple parachute silk and draped it around herself, experimenting until she got the knot-waist dress that opened her runway just right.

Beckham takes the unusual step of personally narrating her show, and with each explanation of a boned bodice or bias cut, her credibility shoots up. She is now treated by the industry as a celebrated designer, not a celebrity.

The themes of her spring dresses—and the collection was only dresses—was a celebration of curves, she said, taking out some of the corsetry that she previously built silhouettes on, replacing that with oval panels on the bodice that she said would give the same flattering shape with more comfort.

AP

A model walks the runway at the Victoria Beckham Spring 2011 collection, in New York, on Sunday, Sept. 12, 2010.

Of course, Beckham herself is known as a petite creature with a dramatic look, but she also appeared softer wearing her hair long and a cinched bell-shape dress topped by a shrunken cardigan, both black. She kept her killer heels, though, a pair of sky-high, copper-colored Brian Atwoods.

Widowed spouses rightfully find comfort in each other

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: "Just Wondering in the Bay Area" (July 26) asked about proper protocol regarding dating after a spouse's death. A recently widowed man was dating a widow from his wife's circle of friends. The women were appalled and now shun the couple.

Many men and women who lose a spouse have finished grieving by the time their loved one dies, especially those who suffered through a long illness like cancer. Everyone grieves differently, some in private and some by sharing time with others. It is only natural that two people who have both lost a spouse would find comfort in each other's company; each knows the other understands what they've been through. Those who shared friendship before the deaths of their spouses have even more in common -- enjoying the fond memories without feeling threatened.

TRUE friends would be delighted in knowing that friends who suffered such catastrophic losses had found comfort and happiness with each other. If this is the kind of friendship these women have to offer, I'd say John and Peggy are better off without them.

SUSAN IN MINNESOTA

DEAR SUSAN: Thank you for sharing your thoughtful viewpoint. Most of the responses I received suggested that these women should have put themselves in their friends' shoes before shunning them. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: My husband's first wife died about a month after my first husband, and after each of us had been married for more than 40 years. As members of the same church, we shared our experiences and began dating about two months after his wife's death. We didn't stop grieving; we grieved together. We were married 11 months later. No one realizes how devastating the loss of a spouse is until they have experienced it.

MARION IN MCHENRY, ILL.

DEAR ABBY: My parents had been married more than 55 years when my father died this past May. Less than a month later, my mother was invited to lunch by a widower from her church. They are now an "item," and I couldn't be happier. My father was an emotionally and verbally abusive man who refused to change or get help for his obvious issues. My sibs and I are thrilled that Mom, at the age of 75, has finally found someone who will love and respect her and make her happy.

HAPPY FOR MOM IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR ABBY: My grandfather remarried at the age of 94, three months after his wife died. The woman he married was a former neighbor. The relatives were in shock, but Grandpa was ecstatic! At his age, a month is valuable time, and he had the good fortune to "start again." I would consider it a compliment if my husband were to marry a mutual friend. After watching my grandfather celebrate life anew, I realized that his second marriage was a testament to his love for my grandmother.

GRATEFUL IN OAKLAND, CALIF.

DEAR ABBY: There is a saying in grief recovery which is appropriate: Women cry, men replace. In my experience, the happier the marriage, the more quickly men remarry. John and Peggy need support and understanding from their friends. They do not deserve to be shunned.

BEEN THERE IN TEXAS

DEAR ABBY: I believe that after one's mate has passed, the "contract" is null and void. It's HOW you lived your marriage that is significant. The speed at which you find someone to bring some joy into your life does not diminish the love of your late spouse. Life is too short for sackcloth and ashes.

BARBARA IN PITTSFIELD, MASS.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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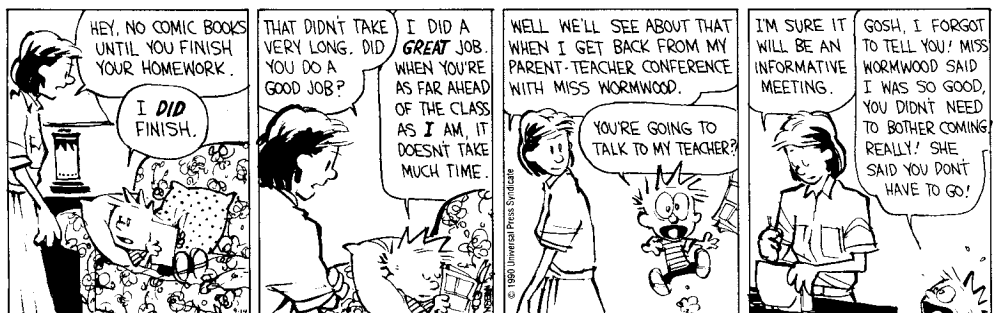
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HEY, NO COMIC BOOKS UNTIL YOU FINISH YOUR HOMEWORK.
I DID FINISH.
THAT DIDN'T TAKE VERY LONG. DID YOU DO A GOOD JOB?
I DID A GREAT JOB. WHEN YOU'RE AS FAR AHEAD OF THE CLASS AS I AM, IT DOESN'T TAKE MUCH TIME.
WELL WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT WHEN I GET BACK FROM MY PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCE WITH MISS WORMWOOD.
YOU'RE GOING TO TALK TO MY TEACHER?
I'M SURE IT WILL BE AN INFORMATIVE MEETING.
GOSH, I FORGOT TO TELL YOU! MISS WORMWOOD SAID I WAS SO GOOD, YOU DIDN'T NEED TO BOTHER COMING! REALLY! SHE SAID YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO!
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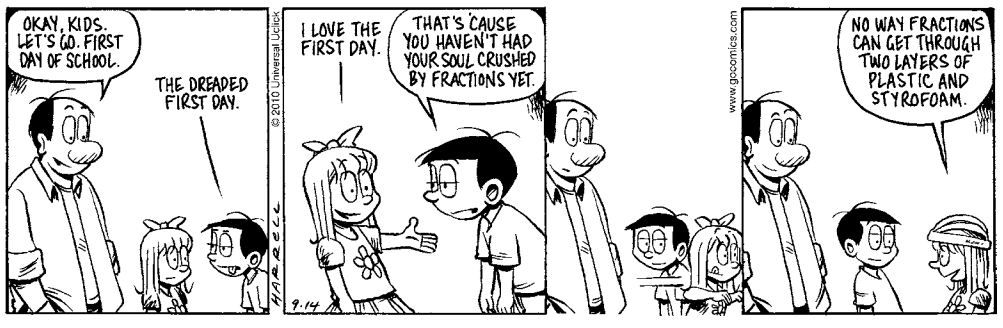
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


OKAY, KIDS. LET'S GO. FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL.
THE DREADED FIRST DAY.
I LOVE THE FIRST DAY.
THAT'S 'CAUSE YOU HAVEN'T HAD YOUR SOUL CRUSHED BY FRACTIONS YET.
NO WAY FRACTIONS CAN GET THROUGH TWO LAYERS OF PLASTIC AND STYROFOAM.
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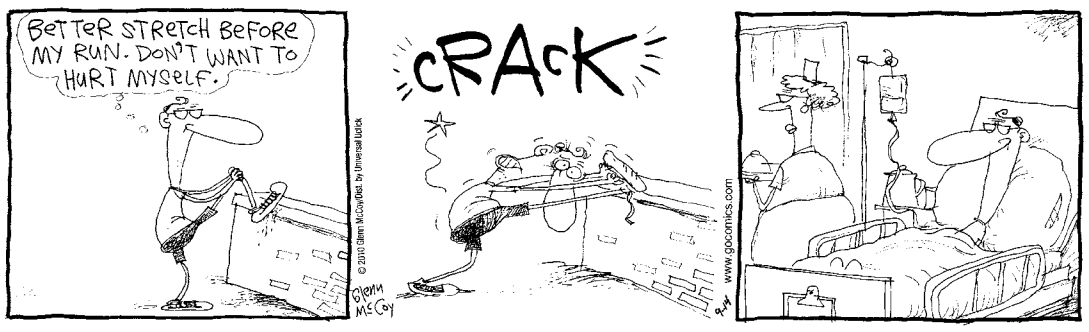
MARCELL
9-14

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 50 percent
5 Old airline letters
8 Church section
12 Needle case
13 Charged particle
14 Manhandle
15 Thyme partner
17 Tarzan's clique
18 Make a choice
19 Branch
20 Fad
21 Secretive org.
22 21-Across employee
23 Piece of information
26 Big fans
30 Responsibility
31 Whammy
32 Actress Turner
33 A power of two
35 Swell
36 Rowing prop
37 "Mayday!"
38 "Danaë" painter Gustav
41 Urban transport
42 Tackle the slopes
45 Houston acronym
46 Its motto is "Manly deeds, womanly words"
48 Eastern potentate
49 Work unit
50 Actor Jannings
51 Simple
52 Tiny
53 Apportion (out)

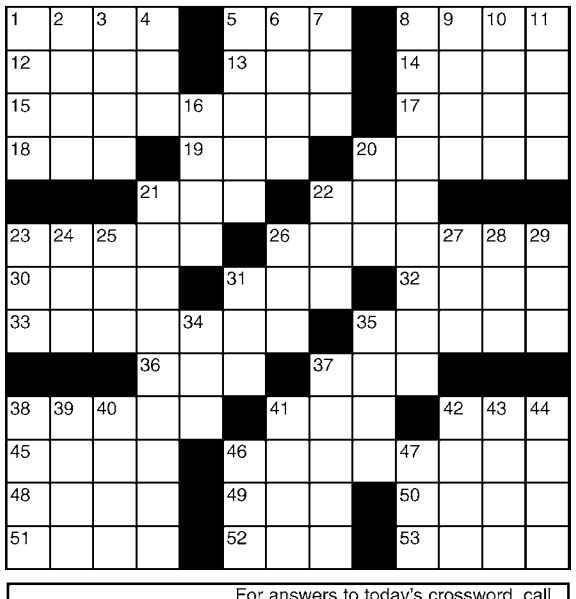
DOWN

1 Medal earner
2 On
3 A deadly sin
4 "Curse you!"
5 Pageant winner's crown
6 Apple dweller?
7 Whatever number
8 Autumn bloom
9 One of the Three Bears
10 Mideast canal
11 Otherwise
16 Cripple
20 Bookkeeper (Abbr.)
21 Typical
22 Gender
23 — and don'ts
24 Blackbird
25 "Monkey suit"
26 Buddhist sect
27 Lummox
28 Stick with a kick
29 Put into words
31 That woman
34 Dine
35 Inquisitive
37 Power glitch
38 Elbow counterpart
39 Dalai —
40 Wife of Osiris
41 Undraped
42 Unaltered
43 Wield needles
44 Between jobs
46 Kitten's call
47 Moon vehicle

Solution time: 21 mins.

W	A	S			E	L	F		B	A	B	A
A	C	T	S		A	I	R		I	C	O	N
T	H	O	U		T	E	A		R	E	A	D
T	E	P	I	D		U	N	I	T			
			T	U	B		C	O	H	E	R	E
P	R	A	Y	E	R	S		U	D	D	E	R
L	O	B	O		A	I	M		A	G	A	R
U	S	E	U	P		P	L	A	Y	E	R	S
S	A	T	R	A	P		B	U	S			
			S	T	U	N		K	U	D	O	S
A	L	O	E		L	O	G		I	O	T	A
S	O	U	L		S	E	E		T	U	T	U
S	U	R	F		E	L	M		P	O	L	

Yesterday's answer 9-14



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: A.J. Trauth, 24; Tyler Perry, 41; Callum Keith Rennie, 50; Sam Neill, 63

Happy Birthday: Discipline is what's required to get through the upcoming year unscathed. Be honest with yourself and everyone around you. Don't be afraid to show your emotions and to discuss what really matters to you. Open communication, kindness, understanding and compassion will lead you to success. Your numbers are 4, 11, 19, 24, 31, 38, 47

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): A partnership can help you expand your interests and take on tasks you have not done in the past. Uncertainty regarding a job or career choice can be dealt with if you take control and make the necessary changes before someone makes a decision for you. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Take care of any differences and move toward a better working relationship with colleagues and personal partners. Express your plans and intentions openly. You will learn a lot about the people around you. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You may find it hard to do what you say or live up to a promise made. Expect to be questioned about your whereabouts and intentions. Problems will surface with regard to partnerships. Concentrate on your domestic scene. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): A power play at work will turn in your favor if you speak honestly about how you intend to proceed. A love relationship will flourish if you use a little charm and make special plans. A burden at home may cause worry. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Emotional situations due to something or someone from your past can ruin your day. Keep busy and make the most of your time. Serious consideration should be given to expanding an idea or a skill you haven't developed fully. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't stop believing in yourself. Know in your heart that you are doing the best you can and that you will make the changes necessary when you are ready. Love is in the stars, so love the one you're with. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Stop limiting what you do or say when it's vital that you are a participant. Lean toward creative ideas and plans that will set you apart from any competition. Take action and make things happen. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): A passionate approach to whatever you do will be the direct link to your success. Don't be afraid to take a different route if you feel it will enrich what you think or do about a situation you face. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Keep your thoughts a secret for now. Someone is looking for an excuse to criticize you. Expect alterations at home that will leave you in an awkward situation. Pushing back is likely to lead to an ultimatum. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Put pressure on anyone owing you money or favors. Don't donate or lend possessions to anyone giving you a sob story. Run a tight ship and you will reap the rewards. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Look for a new position or a way to subsidize your income. There is money to be made if you put one of your inventions or ideas to the test. A partner may question you regarding your intentions or whereabouts. Be honest but don't incriminate yourself. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Stick to the truth and avoid conflict with anyone who could make your life difficult. Emotional problems will crop up if you exaggerate or lead someone on. A passionate encounter is apparent but make sure you are both free before you get involved. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You have initiative and discipline and are determined to protect what you have and the people you love. You are insightful and open to change.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

6		7		5		8		9
		1				2		
	8		9		4		7	
			3		7			
		3				6		
			8		2			
	5		6		9		4	
		6				1		
8		9		2		5		3

Difficulty Level ★★ 9/14

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

8	6	1	2	4	9	7	3	5
5	4	9	3	8	7	2	1	6
3	2	7	1	6	5	4	9	8
6	9	5	8	2	1	3	7	4
1	3	4	7	5	6	8	2	9
2	7	8	4	9	3	6	5	1
7	8	2	5	1	4	9	6	3
9	1	3	6	7	8	5	4	2
4	5	6	9	3	2	1	8	7

Difficulty Level ★ 9/13

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

FIRE DEPARTMENTS **Solution: 8 letters**

E	Q	U	I	P	M	E	N	T	C	I	O	R	E	H
M	C	I	D	E	M	A	R	A	P	L	A	N	G	A
E	O	N	D	I	S	P	A	T	C	H	O	O	N	L
R	M	F	A	R	E	T	N	E	C	I	V	S	I	L
G	M	S	L	L	I	R	D	I	D	E	C	U	R	S
E	I	T	I	N	U	P	L	A	R	H	A	P	O	I
N	S	A	V	E	S	B	R	N	O	P	S	P	S	R
C	S	T	S	R	U	E	M	O	P	E	L	O	N	E
Y	I	I	E	P	C	E	L	A	T	L	L	R	O	G
Y	O	O	S	R	N	S	R	C	C	E	A	T	P	A
T	N	N	O	T	T	A	I	P	I	A	C	G	S	(P)
E	E	F	H	N	T	T	I	P	S	H	D	T	U	(L)
F	R	O	E	U	Y	S	I	R	E	N	E	E	L	(E)
A	S	V	S	R	E	E	T	N	U	L	O	V	M	(H)
S	E	C	I	F	F	O	U	T	I	N	G	S	E	Y

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Yesterday's Answer: Cartilage

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McNabb wins in Redskins debut, beats Cowboys

LANDOVER, Maryland (AP)—DeAngelo Hall returned a fumble 32 yards for Washington's only touchdown, and Donovan McNabb completed 15 of 32 passes for 171 yards in his Redskins debut in a season-opening, 13-7 win over the Dallas Cowboys on Sunday.

It was also the Redskins' curtain raiser for Mike Shanahan, and the longtime Denver Broncos coach watched his defense keep the Cowboys at bay when it mattered.

With 3 seconds left, and the ball at the 13-yard line, Tony Romo scrambled to find Roy Williams open in the end zone. But Alex Barron was called for holding, negating the winning touchdown.

Romo completed 31 of 41 passes for 282 yards. Miles Austin caught 10 passes for 146 yards and scored the game's only offensive touchdown.

Texans 34, Colts 24

At Houston, Arian Foster ran for a team-record 231 yards and scored three touchdowns to lead Houston over Indianapolis.

Foster, an undrafted rookie who spent most of last season on the practice squad, had 33 carries in gaining the most yards by a Colts' opponent. He had the NFL's second-best opening weekend rushing performance since 1933, topped only by Buffalo's O.J. Simpson's 250 in 1973 against New England.

Packers 27, Eagles 20

At Philadelphia, Aaron Rodgers threw a pair of touchdown passes and Mason Crosby kicked a team-record 56-yard field goal as Green Bay won despite a vintage performance by Philadelphia's Michael Vick.

In their first game since trading Donovan McNabb to Washington, the Eagles started with Kevin Kolb and finished with Vick. Kolb left with a concussion at halftime, so Vick played meaningful snaps for an extended period for the first time in nearly four years.

Bears 19, Lions 14

At Chicago, Jay Cutler threw for 372 yards, including a 28-yard TD pass to Matt Forte with 1:32 left as Chicago held on against Detroit.

The Lions, who lost quarterback Matthew Stafford with a right shoulder injury late in the first half, nearly pulled out the win but Shaun Hill's 25-yard pass to Calvin Johnson in the end zone with 25 seconds left was ruled incomplete after a review.

Two incompletions later, the Lions walked off the field with their 21st straight road loss.

Seahawks 31, 49ers 6

At Seattle, Matt Hasselbeck threw for two touchdowns and ran for another as Seattle gave new coach Pete Carroll a winning start.

Carroll left Southern California after last season and is back coaching in the NFL for the first time in 11 years.

Cardinals 17, Rams 13

At St. Louis, Larry Fitzgerald caught a 21-yard touchdown pass for the go-ahead score late in the fourth quarter, helping Arizona spoil a solid debut by No. 1 pick Sam Bradford.

Derek Anderson hung in the pocket despite taking a pounding from the St. Louis pass rush, going 22 for 41 for 297 yards in his first start as the replacement for the retired Kurt Warner. Steve Breaston caught seven passes for 132 yards and Tim Hightower and LaRod Stephens-Howling combined for 103 yards rushing for an offense without Beanie Wells (knee).

Buccaneers 17, Browns 14

At Tampa, Florida, Josh Freeman returned from a three-week layoff because of a broken thumb on his throwing hand and tossed a pair of touchdowns to help the Bucs overcome an 11-point deficit.

Freeman threw a 3-yard TD pass to Mike Williams late in the first half. Freeman kept the go-ahead drive alive with a key third-down completion, then found Micheal Spurlock in the end zone for a 33-yard score that put Tampa Bay ahead 17-14 with just under seven minutes to go.

AP

Washington Redskins quarterback Donovan McNabb scrambles during the second half of an NFL football game against the Dallas Cowboys in Landover, Md., on early Monday, Sept. 13, 2010.

Patriots 38, Bengals 24

At Foxborough, Massachusetts, Tom Brady threw two of his three touchdown passes to Wes Welker to lead New England.

The season-opening victory came just three days after Brady was unhurt in a two-car crash then agreed to a contract making him the NFL's highest paid player.

Giants 31, Panthers 18

At East Rutherford, New Jersey, the New York Giants opened their new $1.6 billion home by beating Florida with a big second half.

Trailing 16-14 at halftime, the Giants surged behind second-year receiver Hakeem Nicks, who caught his third touchdown pass from Eli Manning. Ahmad Bradshaw set up his own 4-yard TD run in the fourth quarter with a 39-yard romp that provided the cushion New York needed to get some revenge on Carolina.

Jaguars 24, Broncos 17

At Jacksonville, Florida, David Garrard threw three touchdown passes and two to tight end Marcedes Lewis as Jacksonville won a game the team called one of the most important in franchise history.

Garrard completed 16 of 21 passes for 170 yards. A big chunk of those went to Mike Thomas, who caught six passes for 89 yards. Maurice Jones-Drew ran for 98 yards.

Steelers 15, Falcons 9, OT

At Pittsburgh, Rashard Mendenhall ran 50 yards for a touchdown 2:35 into overtime as Pittsburgh overcame a shaky start by replacement quarterback Dennis Dixon and a missed field goal attempt late in regulation.

With the Steelers leaning heavily on their running game and defense without suspended star quarterback Ben Roethlisberger, Mendenhall carried 22 times for 120 yards and the game's only touchdown. Hines Ward made six catches for 108 yards in his club record 26th career 100-yard game.

Dolphins 15, Bills 10

At Orchard Park, New York, linebacker Karlos Dansby and Miami's new-look defense provided the Dolphins with the quick start they were looking for.

Dansby, Miami's top offseason free-agent addition, had a sack and eight tackles in helping Miami limit Buffalo to 166 yards on offense.

Titans 38, Raiders 13

At Nashville, Tennessee, Chris Johnson ran for 142 yards and two touchdowns, and Vince Young threw for two TDs and Javon Ringer had a TD as Tennessee avoided any comparisons to last year's 0-6 start with a season-opening rout.

Oakland led 3-0 early after a Young fumble. Tennessee answered with 24 straight points to take control. The Titans also sacked new Raiders quarterback Jason Campbell four times and forced two turnovers they turned into 10 points.

Rain forces third straight Monday final

NEW YORK (AP)—A Monday men's final is becoming a U.S. Open tradition.

The championship match between Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic was postponed a day because of persistent rain Sunday, the third consecutive year that the season's last major tournament won't finish on schedule.

The No. 1-seeded Nadal, bidding to complete a career Grand Slam, and No. 3 Djokovic were supposed to begin playing at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, but showers began more than 1 1/2 hours earlier and hadn't stopped by 6:15 p.m., when tournament officials decided to call it a night.

The final was rescheduled for 4 p.m. Monday, when the forecast calls for a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms.

Before 2008, the U.S. Open men's final hadn't been pushed to Monday since 1987. But Roger Federer beat Andy Murray on a Monday two years ago, then lost to Juan Martin del Potro on a Monday last year. This marks the first three-year string of delayed finishes at the tournament since the men's and women's singles competitions were combined and played at the same site in 1935.

"It was a very uncertain forecast, and had been shifting over the course of the day. We are in a band of showers that potentially could stretch until 1 (a.m.)," U.S. Tennis Association spokesman Chris Widmaier said. "There may be breaks in there, but it was such an uncertain forecast that we felt the right thing to do for the players—and certainly for the fans—was to postpone the remaining matches until tomorrow."

Nadal and Djokovic were told a little before 6:30 p.m. that they wouldn't be playing Sunday, Widmaier said.

At 3 p.m., Djokovic was warming up on a practice court right outside Arthur Ashe Stadium as scattered drops fell. A few dozen fans—some holding aloft umbrellas—gathered outside the fence, catching a glimpse of the 2008 Australian Open champion.

He probably doesn't mind having to wait until Monday to play for real. That's because he reached the final with a grueling, five-set victory over Federer that lasted about 1 1/2 hours more than Nadal's straightforward, three-set win against Mikhail Youzhny in Saturday's first semifinal.

The U.S. Open is the only Grand Slam tournament that schedules its men's singles semifinals and finals on back-to-back days, which could have proved to be a disadvantage for Djokovic. Indeed, after upsetting Federer on Saturday to reach his third Grand Slam final, Djokovic opened his eyes wide and rubbed his hands together when he was told about the possibility of rain affecting the final.

"I don't know the rituals; how to invite the rain," he said. "An extra day would be great."

Well, now he got it.

Nadal, meanwhile, will have to wait at least a day for his shot at history. Playing in his first U.S. Open final, the Spaniard is seeking to become the seventh man to own at least one singles title for each of tennis' four more prestigious tournaments.

He takes a 20-match Grand Slam winning streak into Monday, having won the French Open and Wimbledon to raise his major title total to eight. A victory over Djokovic also would make the 24-year-old Nadal the first man since Rod Laver's true, calendar-year Grand Slam in 1969 to win at Paris, London and New York in the same season. And it would send Nadal to the Australian Open in January with a chance to pull off a Rafa Slam of four major titles in a row, something no man has done since Laver.

There was only one interruption of play because of rain during the first 13 days of the tournament, a delay of about 25 minutes on the first Friday, when the outer bands of Hurricane Earl passed through the area. Otherwise, Week 1 was all about the heat, with the temperature reaching into the mid-90s, and Week 2 was all about the wind, with gusts topping 30 mph.

While Djokovic was training Sunday afternoon, the women's doubles final was halted in progress, with Liezel Huber and Nadia Petrova three points from victory at 5-4 in the third set against Vania King and Yaroslava Shvedova. Tournament referee Brian Earley and tournament director Brian Curley went on the Arthur Ashe Stadium court to check the conditions, and eventually, the players were sent to the locker room.

About 45 minutes later, heavier rain began falling, and the doubles final was scheduled to resume Monday at 3 p.m.—weather permitting.

There were some matches completed before the rain set in Sunday, including the first all-American U.S. Open boys' final in a decade. Jack Sock, a 17-year-old high school senior who grew up in Lincoln, Neb., beat Denis Kudla 3-6, 6-2, 6-2 to become the first player representing the United States to win the title since Andy Roddick in 2000.

Top-seeded Daria Gavrilova beat Yulia Putintseva 6-3, 6-2 in an all-Russian girls' final, while Esther Vergeer won her 396th consecutive match by defeating Daniela di Toro 6-0, 6-0 in the women's wheelchair final.

Johnson closes out a win at Cog Hill

LEMONT, Ill. (AP)—Maybe now everyone will believe Dustin Johnson when he says he is over a summer of Sunday disappointments.

First came an 82 on the final day of the U.S. Open. Then came a crushing blow at the PGA Championship, when he was denied a spot in the playoff for not realizing he was in a bunker and touching the sand with his club on the final hole.

Resilient as he is powerful, Johnson kept coming back for more.

The payoff came Sunday in the BMW Championship, when the 26-year-old American was flawless on the back nine at Cog Hill and made up a three-shot deficit against Paul Casey to win for the second time this year. Playing in the final group for the fourth time since June, Johnson closed with a 2-under 69 for a one-shot victory.

"To finally get it done, especially after all the things I've gone through this summer ... it can't feel any better," Johnson said. "I played really good golf today. I didn't make as many birdies as I would have liked, but I made just enough."

He made three birdies, none more important than the last one.

Tied for the lead, Johnson knew the 17th hole might be his last good chance. He pulled driver and smashed his tee shot over the trees with a slight fade, the ball landing in the fairway and leaving him a sand wedge that he hit within 2 feet for a tap-in birdie.

"I knew I needed to hit a good tee ball because it was going to be my best chance of making a birdie," he said. "I was just trying to cut a drive, hold it against the wind and get it around the corner a little bit. And I hit it perfect."

Equally impressive was the 18th, where Johnson ripped another drive to set up a conservative par.

The Pebble Beach winner in February, Johnson has quickly emerged as one of the game's rising stars. He now goes to the Tour Championship at No. 2 in the FedEx Cup standings, with a clear shot at the $10 million bonus.

One player he won't have to beat at East Lake is Tiger Woods. The world's No. 1 player sputtered at the start and shot 70 to tie for 15th, not nearly enough to move into the top 30 in the standings and advance to the FedEx Cup finale.

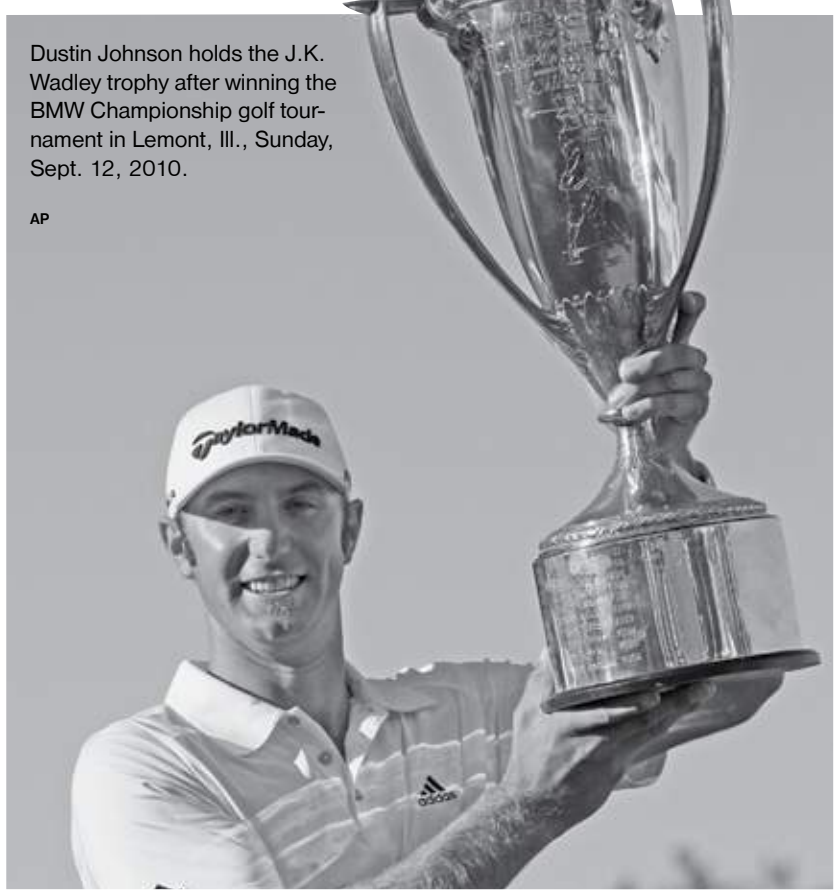
It's the first time as a pro that Woods hasn't been eligible for a tournament.

"That's just the way it is," Woods said. "I didn't play well early in the year, and I didn't play well in the middle of the year."

Woods played with Phil Mickelson for the first time all year, and Lefty buried him. Mickelson closed with a 67 and tied for eighth, his first top 10 since the U.S. Open. It was the 26th time the world's best two players have been in the same group, and the record now stands at 11-11-4.

"He certainly brings out the best in me, and I enjoy being paired with him," Mickelson said.

Woods next plays in the Ryder Cup, and he won't be alone in having two weeks off. Two other Ryder Cup picks, Stewart Cink and Rickie Fowler, also failed to qualify for the Tour Championship.



Dustin Johnson holds the J.K. Wadley trophy after winning the BMW Championship golf tournament in Lemont, Ill., Sunday, Sept. 12, 2010.

AP

Casey was left off the Ryder Cup team despite being No. 9 in the world when European captain Colin Montgomerie made his three picks. He had a great chance to make Montgomerie look foolish, building a three-shot lead on the back nine, only to throw it away with three straight bogeys. Casey had three chances from the fairway coming in, but didn't give himself a birdie opportunity inside 25 feet.

Asked if he was motivated by not being picked, Casey smiled and said, "Yes."

But he wouldn't say much more.

"I can't go there, unfortunately," the Englishman said.

He shot four rounds of 69 to finish alone in second. The consolation was moving up to No. 5 in the FedEx Cup standings, and the top five players at East Lake only have to win to collect the biggest payoff in golf.

The biggest blow to Casey on the back nine was hooking his tee shot into the bushes on the par-5 15th, which can be reached in two. He made his third straight bogey to fall into a tie, and Johnson outplayed him from there.

"It was myself against the golf course, 72 holes, and I played it one shot worse than Dustin Johnson," Casey said.

With the 70-man field at Cog Hill narrowed to the final 30, the BMW Championship offered plenty of drama away from the leaders.

Charlie Wi appeared set for his first Tour Championship until making bogeys on the last two holes, missing a 12-foot par putt on the final hole. That moved Bill Haas up to No. 30.

Then came Matt Kuchar, who needed a birdie for any hope of getting into a playoff at Cog Hill. He ran his putt 3 1/2 feet by the hole, then missed it coming back. Kuchar was in a two-way for third, and the bogey moved him into a three-way tie for fourth. That allowed K.J. Choi to crack the top 30.

Ryan Moore, the 54-hole leader, was alone in third place when he sent his second shot over the 18th green. He smartly played away from the pin to avoid chipping into the water and took his bogey, which kept him in the top 30. If Moore had made double bogey, he would have fallen out of the Tour Championship.

The 30th and final spot went to Bo Van Pelt.

Johnson earned a small measure of redemption. He likely moves to No. 12 in the world with his fourth career victory.

"I know I've had some failures—I don't know if I'd call them failures—I've had a few mishaps," Johnson said. "To come back and get it done, I'm very proud of myself. I think I've handled everything very well, and now I've got to look forward to two weeks from now."

Cliff Lee comes back sharp, Rangers sweep Yankees

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Cliff Lee allowed two hits while pitching into the ninth inning in his return from a back injury and Julio Borbon hit a go-ahead single to carry the Texas Rangers to a 4-1 victory over the New York Yankees and a sweep of the series between division leaders.

Lee (11-8) didn't give up a hit for 5 1-3 innings, facing the minimum in that stretch. Both hits and the lone run came in the sixth inning.

Neftali Perez struck out the next three batters for his 36th save in 39 chances, completing the first three-game sweep of the Yankees this year.

Blue Jays 5, Rays 4

At Toronto, Adam Lind hit a two-run homer off Rafael Soriano in the ninth inning to give Toronto a win over Tampa Bay.

With Toronto trailing 4-3, Aaron Hill led off the ninth with a single off Soriano (2-2), who had converted his previous 19 save chances since July 20. After falling behind 0-2, in the count, Lind lined his 22nd home run of the season to right field.

Twins 6, Indians 2

At Cleveland, Kevin Slowey earned his first win in nearly a month as the Twins beat Cleveland for its 4,000th win since the franchise moved to Minnesota.

Slowey (12-6) gave up two runs over five innings in his second start since being sidelined with a strained right triceps.

The original Washington franchise moved to Minnesota after the 1960 season and became the Twins. The AL Central leaders open a three-game series in Chicago against the second-place White Sox on Tuesday.

Angels 3, Mariners 0

At Anaheim, California, Dan Haren held Seattle to three singles over seven innings and Mike Napoli homered as Los Angeles scored another run on a catcher's interference call with the bases loaded to complete a sweep of Seattle.

The Angels, who are in third place in the AL West after winning three straight division titles, won the season series 14-5.

White Sox 12, Royals 6

At Chicago, Paul Konerko had a pair of two-run homers and an RBI single and pinch-hitter Andruw Jones hit grand slam in a six-run sixth inning, leading Chicago over Kansas City.

Kansas City led 6-0 after a half inning, but Konerko lined a run-scoring single to left to give Chicago its first lead of the game in the sixth.

Red Sox 5, Athletics 3

At Oakland, pinch-hitter Ryan Kalish hit a go-ahead two-run single in the sixth inning and J.D. Drew had a two-run double one batter earlier as Boston rallied for a victory over Oakland.

Josh Beckett (5-4) settled down after a rocky start as Boston avoided its first sweep by the A's since May 23-25, 2008.

Tigers 6, Orioles 2

At Detroit, Miguel Cabrera hit a bases-loaded double in a five-run eighth inning that backed Justin Verlander's 16th win as Detroit beat Baltimore to get back to .500.

With the Orioles ahead 2-1, Will Rhymes led off the eighth with a single against Mike Gonzalez (0-3) and took third on Ryan Raburn's double. Orioles manager Buck Showalter brought in David Hernandez, who got ahead 1-2 in the count to pinch-hitter Austin Jackson before loading the bases with a walk. Cabrera then lined a three-run double into the left-center field gap.

Giants 6, Padres 1

At San Diego, Tim Lincecum won his third straight start following a career-high, five-game losing streak and had a two-run single as the San Francisco Giants punished San Diego ace Mat Latos.

The win cut the struggling Padres' lead to less than one percentage point atop the National League West.

Rockies 4, Diamondbacks 2

At Denver, pinch-hitter Jason Giambi hit a two-run homer off Sam Demel (1-1) with two outs in the ninth, giving Colorado its 10th straight win.

Jonathan Herrera started the rally when he reached on an error by second baseman Kelly Johnson.

Phillies 3, Mets 0

At New York, Roy Oswalt (12-13) pitched a four-hitter for his second complete game this season as Philadelphia blanked New York.

Raul Ibanez hit a solo homer off Jon Niese (9-8), and Chase Utley and Ryan Howard had RBI singles for the Phillies (83-61), who nosed ahead of second-place Atlanta in the NL East by winning for the fifth time in six games.

Pirates 3, Reds 1

At Cincinnati, Andrew McCutchen hit a three-run double in the ninth off Francisco Cordero (6-5), who blew his second straight save chance in Pittsburgh's loss to Cincinnati.

Park Chan-ho (1-1) allowed a walk in the eighth inning to get the win. Joel Hanrahan loaded the bases with two outs in the ninth before striking out Chris Heisey for his fifth save in nine tries.

Cardinals 7, Braves 3

At Atlanta, Albert Pujols hit two home runs to power St. Louis past Atlanta and drop the braves out of first place.

Pujols passed Hall of Famer Stan Musial for the most multihomer games in Cardinals history with 38, including five this season.

Marlins 6, Nationals 5

At Washington, Mike Stanton homered twice off Jordan Zimmermann (0-1) and drove in three runs as Florida completed a three-game sweep of Washington.

Florida won 10 of its last 11 games against Washington to win the season series 13-5. The last-place Nationals have lost five in a row overall, falling a season-high 23 games under .500 at 60-83.

Astros 7, Dodgers 4

At Houston, Hunter Pence had his team-leading 24th homer among his three hits, and Carlos Lee hit his 21st homer as Houston earned a split of the four-game series with Los Angeles.

Gustavo Chacin (2-2) escaped a bases-loaded jam with two outs in the fifth to keep the score tied 4-all. He and five other relievers combined for 4 1-3 innings of two-hit ball. Brandon Lyon pitched a hitless ninth for his 15th save.

Brewers 2, Cubs 0

At Milwaukee, Yovani Gallardo (12-7) pitched four-hit ball for seven innings to win for the first time in seven starts since Aug. 8, and he doubled and scored on Ryan Braun's fifth-inning double in Milwaukee's shut out of Chicago.

Casey McGehee homered in the eighth after the Brewers scored their first run of the three-game series.

US WIN

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States," Durant said.

Lamar Odom added 15 points and 11 rebounds for the Americans, who won gold in the worlds for the fourth time, doing so with a team that was no sure thing after coming to Turkey without the superstars from its Olympic gold medal team.

With Kobe Bryant, LeBron James and Co. sitting home, this group was called a "B-Team," which the players were aware of and couldn't wait to disprove.

"I think that was extra motivation," Durant said. "It was exciting to come out here and win and also to prove people wrong."

And they came through where many of their bigger-name predecessors couldn't four years ago in Japan in the world championship, beginning to quiet a raucous crowd midway through the second quarter with a superb defensive effort.

"I thought we rallied and we became a little bit of an unconventional team," Krzyzewski said. "We thought we could win, we just felt it would be a lot harder, and they worked real hard and they made it happen."

Durant, who scored 33 and a U.S.-record 38 points in the previous two games, again took care of the offense, qualifying the U.S. for the 2012 Olympics.

Hedo Turkoglu of the Phoenix Suns scored 16 points for the Turks, who were bidding for their first title and were boosted by huge crowd support, with fans in red filling most of the 15,000-seat Sinan Erdem Dome.

Lithuania beat Serbia for the bronze earlier in the day.

Durant scored 20 in the first half, then hit consecutive 3-pointers early in the third quarter, yelling at Turkish fans sitting courtside and pounding his chest after the second, as the U.S. quickly extended a 10-point halftime lead.

The Americans already knew they'd be bringing a different team to Turkey after all the gold medalists from the 2008 Olympics opted to take this summer off. Then All-Star forwards Amare Stoudemire and David Lee were forced to withdraw on the opening day of training camp.

The U.S. was left with a young, undersized team, featuring six players 22 or younger and only one true center in Tyson Chandler, who quickly became a backup when forward Odom was installed as the starter.

So this team simply rode Durant to the gold medal. The NBA scoring champion made seven 3-pointers against Turkey, often pulling up from places that were simply too far away for its zone to reach, and the Americans outrebounded the Turks 42-34.

"This team had a lot of character and poise," Odom said. "A lot of people thought we were undersized and we didn't have a center, we didn't have too many big guys. People thought we were going to get killed on the inside, but we played tough, hung in there, and stayed strong, focused."

The whistling was so loud when U.S. players were introduced that it was hard to make out the names. There were more whistles and boos every time the Americans had the ball in the early going, and the building was at its loudest when Turkoglu made consecutive 3-pointers to give Turkey its first lead at 15-14 with 4:07 remaining in the first quarter.

Durant was most of the U.S. offense, as he often was throughout the tournament, scoring 11 points in the quarter to help the Americans to a 22-17 advantage.

Unable to crack Turkey's zone, the U.S. kept going smaller to get more shooting on the floor, at one point playing Durant and Rudy Gay with guards Eric Gordon, Stephen Curry and Russell Westbrook.

The U.S. held Turkey to one field goal over the first 6 minutes of the second quarter, extending the lead to 10 on a 3-pointer by Durant. The Americans were ahead 42-32 at halftime.

The U.S. victory put a disappointing end to an important day for Turks, who approved sweeping changes to their constitution in a referendum vote, which the government hailed as a leap toward full democracy.

President Barack Obama called Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan before the game, congratulating him on the success of the tournament and Turkey's team while acknowledging "the vibrancy of Turkey's democracy as reflected in the turnout for the referendum."

But the team, serenaded throughout by fans singing "12 Giant Men," its theme song since its runner-up finish while hosting the 2001 European championship, fell short of becoming the fourth host to win the world championship and first since Yugoslavia in 1970.

The Turks were a step slow and consistently beaten on the boards, perhaps drained from their thrilling 83-82 victory over Serbia in Saturday's late game.

"Nobody was expecting to be this far," Turkoglu said. "So I'm really happy, really proud."

FIBA inducted its Hall of Fame class at halftime, a group that included women's star Cheryl Miller, former NBA centers Vlade Divac and Arvydas Sabonis, and Brazilian star Oscar Schmidt.

MDX/MONSTER

From Page 28

protecting their lead in the fourth period with Ferdie Tobias and Trajano making rally halting baskets.

NMBA 94, Bayani 91

In the open division, NMBA/Island Apparel broke into the win column after beating Bayani/Soul Jazz, 94-91.

NMBA claimed its first win in four matches, while Bayani remained winless in five games.

NMBA had the lead from start to finish, withstanding Bayani's repeated comeback bids in the fourth canto.

Rolly Paraiso and Jomar Tengco knocked in seven points apiece in the first period, giving NMBA a 21-13 lead.

In the second quarter, NMBA continued to have a good shooting night with Yasu Irinaka making two triples and Manny Matagolai hitting one. Matagolai had nine points, while Robert Guiang chipped in eight, helping NMBA increase the lead to 11 at halftime, 50-39.

Matagolai was not done yet, as he drilled two more triples in the third period and scored 10 markers, trading baskets with Bayani's Lerio Pagarao. Pagarao had 12 points in the third period, but still NMBA had the lead at the end of that canto, 74-66.

Pagarao kept on pushing his team back in the final quarter, but Matagolai and company produced enough points to deny Bayani its first win. Matagolai finished with a team-high 27 points, while Paraiso and Guiang contributed 18 and 14 markers, respectively.

First Game

MDX/Monster 81 – De Guzman 22, Tabora 18. Ebuen 14, Trajano 11, Sabino 6, Tobias 5, Dayrit 3.

Cabalen/Wings Travel 70 – Diaz 21, Guiab 16, Fernandez 16, Guiang 6, Tamondong 5, Santos 3, Yalung 3.

Scoring by quarters: 19-18, 43-34, 61-51, 81-70.

Second Game

NMBA/Island Apparel 94 – Matagolai 27, Paraiso 18, Guiang 14, Tengco 13, Sison 9, Irinaka 6, Cabrera 4, Mendiola 3.

Bayani/Soul Jazz – L. Pagarao 31, Mangali 17, Tabora 16, Dayrit 8, Inos 7, Lauron 6, J. Pagarao 5, Javier 4, Ong 2.

Scoring by quarters: 21-13, 50-39, 74-66, 94-91.

VISITORS

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difficulty, variety, and execution of the moves, and overall impression. Each participant was given two 90-second rides in the finals. Scores range from 1 (lowest) to 10 (highest). For the final scoring, the highest and lowest scores were dropped and the remaining three were tallied to get the average score.

In the women's division, which had the same scoring format, Korean Kim Soo Hee bested five other participants. Kim collected 17.16 points to top the women's division and prevail over PIC's Minerva Cabrera (16.43) and Japanese Yasuko Okuyaki (15.9).

In the flowboard open, it was a close fight between Derek Gersonde and Keoni Ichihara with the former winning with his 17.43 points against the latter's 17.3 markers. Dan Westphal came in at third place with his 16.68 points.

The four-rider kids division had Korea's Ryou Min Kyu besting Saipan's Quintin and Colin Ramsey, and Will Johnson.

Ryou got 7.9 points from the judges to win over Quintin Ramsey, who earned 7.31 points. Johnson and Colin finished third and fourth, respectively, after posting 6.86 and 6.73 points.

Winners were feted after the tournament at the banquet held at Charley's Cabaret.

Besides the four divisions, two special recognition were given at the awards night with Korea's Kim "Rain" Hyun Su getting the Monster Trick award for his double twisting back flip; and Taryn Holvik taking home the Delta Airlines Spirit Award for being the lone female rider in the flowboard open division.

The weekend point break tournament at PIC's flowrider facility drew more than 30 participants from Japan, Korea, and Saipan. A flowrider facility is a wave technology which allows riders to do surfing and skateboarding.

Meanwhile, PIC would like to the following for supporting the two-day tournament: Delta Airlines, DFS Saipan, Monster Energy Drink, Pacific Trading. Co., Quiksilver, and Docomo.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	87	56	.608	–
Tampa Bay	86	56	.606	1/2
Boston	79	64	.552	8
Toronto	73	70	.510	14
Baltimore	55	88	.385	32
Central Division				
Minnesota	85	58	.594	–
Chicago	79	64	.552	6
Detroit	72	72	.500	13 1/2
Kansas City	58	84	.408	26 1/2
Cleveland	58	85	.406	27
West Division				
Texas	80	63	.559	–
Oakland	71	71	.500	8 1/2
Los Angeles	70	73	.490	10
Seattle	55	88	.385	25

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	83	61	.576	–
Atlanta	82	62	.569	1
Florida	73	69	.514	9
New York	70	73	.490	12 1/2
Washington	60	83	.420	22 1/2
Central Division				
Cincinnati	81	62	.566	–
St. Louis	74	67	.525	6
Houston	68	75	.476	13
Milwaukee	66	76	.465	14 1/2
Chicago	62	81	.434	19
Pittsburgh	48	94	.338	32 1/2
West Division				
San Diego	80	62	.563	–
San Francisco	81	63	.563	–
Colorado	79	64	.552	1 1/2
Los Angeles	71	73	.493	10
Arizona	57	86	.399	23 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Philadelphia 3, N.Y. Mets 0
Pittsburgh 3, Cincinnati 1
Florida 6, Washington 5
Houston 7, L.A. Dodgers 4
Milwaukee 2, Chicago Cubs 0
Colorado 4, Arizona 2
San Francisco 6, San Diego 1
St. Louis 7, Atlanta 3
Detroit 6, Baltimore 2
Minnesota 6, Cleveland 2
Toronto 5, Tampa Bay 4
Chicago White Sox 12, Kansas City 6
Texas 4, N.Y. Yankees 1
L.A. Angels 3, Seattle 0
Boston 5, Oakland 3

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Miami	1	0	0	1.000	15	10
New England	1	0	0	1.000	38	24
N.Y. Jets	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Buffalo	0	1	0	.000	10	15
South						
Houston	1	0	0	1.000	34	24
Jacksonville	1	0	0	1.000	24	17
Tennessee	1	0	0	1.000	38	13
Indianapolis	0	1	0	.000	24	34
North						
Pittsburgh	1	0	0	1.000	15	9
Baltimore	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Cincinnati	0	1	0	.000	24	38
Cleveland	0	1	0	.000	14	17
West						
Kansas City	0	0	0	.000	0	0
San Diego	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Denver	0	1	0	.000	17	24
Oakland	0	1	0	.000	13	38

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

Washington	1	0	0	1.000	13	7
N.Y. Giants	1	0	0	1.000	31	18
Dallas	0	1	0	.000	7	13
Philadelphia	0	1	0	.000	20	27
South						
New Orleans	1	0	0	1.000	14	9
Tampa Bay	1	0	0	1.000	17	14
Atlanta	0	1	0	.000	9	15
Carolina	0	1	0	.000	18	31
North						
Chicago	1	0	0	1.000	19	14
Green Bay	1	0	0	1.000	27	20
Detroit	0	1	0	.000	14	19
Minnesota	0	1	0	.000	9	14
West						
Arizona	1	0	0	1.000	17	13
Seattle	1	0	0	1.000	31	6
San Francisco	0	1	0	.000	6	31
St. Louis	0	1	0	.000	13	17

Yesterday's Games

Chicago 19, Detroit 14
Tennessee 38, Oakland 13
Miami 15, Buffalo 10
Pittsburgh 15, Atlanta 9, OT
Jacksonville 24, Denver 17
Houston 34, Indianapolis 24
N.Y. Giants 31, Carolina 18
New England 38, Cincinnati 24
Tampa Bay 17, Cleveland 14
Arizona 17, St. Louis 13
Seattle 31, San Francisco 6
Green Bay 27, Philadelphia 20
Washington 13, Dallas 7

BMW CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

LEMONT, Illinois (AP)–Scores Sunday at the BMW Championship, a $7.5 million PGA tournament at the par-71, 7,616-yard Dubsdread Course at Cog Hill Golf and Country Club:

FINAL ROUND

Dustin Johnson, $1,350,000	68-70-68-69–275
Paul Casey, $810,000	69-69-69-69–276
K.J. Choi, $360,000	71-69-69-69–278
Kevin Na, $360,000	70-69-69-70–278
Matt Kuchar, $360,000	64-72-70-72–278
Ryan Moore, $360,000	65-74-66-73–278
Retief Goosen, $251,250	67-71-71-70–279
Phil Mickelson, $217,500	72-71-70-67–280
Steve Stricker, $217,500	70-73-67-70–280
Charlie Wi, $217,500	67-69-70-74–280
Camilo Villegas, $180,000	70-70-71-70–281
Marc Leishman, $180,000	72-65-72-72–281
Ernie Els, $150,000	70-71-67-74–282
Ian Poulter, $150,000	66-72-69-75–282
Nick Watney, $116,250	70-74-70-69–283
Tiger Woods, $116,250	73-72-68-70–283
Adam Scott, $116,250	71-69-72-71–283
Jim Furyk, $116,250	73-71-69-70–283
David Toms, $116,250	70-72-70-71–283
Zach Johnson, $116,250	70-73-66-74–283
Stewart Cink, $84,000	70-73-71-70–284
Tim Clark, $84,000	70-70-70-74–284
Justin Rose, $84,000	68-71-71-74–284
Tom Gillis, $60,750	70-72-76-67–285
Geoff Ogilvy, $60,750	73-72-72-68–285
Vijay Singh, $60,750	70-77-68-70–285
Robert Allenby, $60,750	72-70-72-71–285
Michael Sim, $60,750	72-70-72-71–285
Greg Chalmers, $60,750	72-69-68-76–285
Justin Leonard, $44,571	72-71-75-68–286
Bryce Molder, $44,571	74-72-72-68–286
Charley Hoffman, $44,571	70-77-70-69–286
Vaughn Taylor, $44,571	70-71-74-71–286
Carl Pettersson, $44,571	72-72-71-71–286
Brian Gay, $44,571	68-73-72-73–286
Bill Haas, $44,571	70-73-69-74–286
Brandt Snedeker, $33,000	76-72-72-67–287
Rory McIlroy, $33,000	76-74-68-69–287
Matt Jones, $33,000	71-70-73-73–287
Hunter Mahan, $33,000	71-68-75-73–287
Sean O'Hair, $33,000	75-68-71-73–287
Luke Donal, $33,000	68-70-72-77–287

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

3 LOCAL

From Page 28

Padres, two United States colleges—Colby Community College in Kansas and Indian Hills Community College in Iowa—have also expressed interest in the young athletes.

Vince Cepeda was the top velocity pitcher during the Micro Games with an 88mph fastball. Jones was noted as the CNMI's workhorse hurler in the tournament, pitching four of their games and consistently keeping them in each game. The left-hander has an 84mph fastball, but according to Brown it is Jones' curveball that catches one's attention.

"In my opinion, [Jones] has a Major League curveball," said Brown.

Fifteen-year-old Jeremy Rabauliman, the youngest prospect of the three, was also the youngest player ever to play in the baseball competition of the Micro Games.

"Rabauliman already throws an 84mph fastball, which would be faster than any player his age in Australia," added Brown.

Brown previously observed Cepeda and Rabauliman during the Regional Training Center baseball clinic in Guam last June, while at the time Jones was preparing to compete in the Little League Big Division Regional tournament in Jakarta, Indonesia. At the RTC clinic Cepeda and Rabauliman were recorded on videotape displaying their skills to the other talent scouts.

All three athletes were recorded in action during the baseball competition of the Palau Micro Games and the schools and scouts will be reviewing that footage as well.

Moreover, the Saipan Major League Baseball Association is making efforts to send the three potential CNMI prospects to the next Baseball Oceania Regional Training Centre in Auckland, New Zealand set from Dec. 29, 2010 to Jan. 9, 2011 where scouts will be present to see them in person.

NMIVA postpones PE teachers course

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association president Laurie Peterka, seen here in a file photo, said the FIVB Volleyball Cooperation Program Teacher's Training Course set for this week was postponed due to scheduling problems.

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association has postponed its planned FIVB Volleyball Cooperation Program Teacher's Training Course originally set from Sept. 14 to 19 due to scheduling problems.

"According to FIVB Technical and Development director Helgi Thorsteinsson, the FIVB is still working on selecting the right instructor to visit the Northern Marianas Islands for the Volleyball Cooperation Program, however due to scheduling conflicts, Thorsteinsson said they will need to reschedule the CNMI's Teacher's Training Course for some time in October," said NMIVA president Laurie Peterka in an email to the *Saipan Tribune*.

Peterka said FIVB was very apologetic about the postponement, but is currently experiencing some organizational changes that are being directed by FIVB president Jizhong Wei.

"The good news is that Wei's agenda is heavy on development, especially for Category 1 nations, which includes the CNMI. NMIVA is hopeful that this means the CNMI may be offered more opportunities for developmental assistance in the future," she said.

Peterka said NMIVA will await for further instructions from FIVB and post information as soon as it becomes available. In the meantime, she said, the organization will leave registration open and encourage those who are still interested to apply.

NMIVA's online registration system offers the option to enter dates and times ideally to the user's preference. NMIVA encourages all interested participants to use their online feature as a way to help give them an idea of which dates and times will work best for everyone. The NMIVA plans on relaying this information back to FIVB.

"We apologize for any inconvenience this will cause anyone and we are hopeful that you will be able to stick with us and attend at our revised schedule in October. For those who have already registered, we have your names and contact [information]. You will be contacted directly as soon as we have any new information. As always, we will also post new and updated information at both our website www.nmivolleyball.org and our Facebook page," said Peterka.

For more information or questions, contact NMIVA at nmivolleyball@gmail.com or its vice president Gabriel White at 731ekul@gmail.com.

26 take part in youth baseball clinic

A total of 26 players took part in the Saipan Little League Baseball Association's youth baseball clinic held last Saturday, Sept. 11, at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

SLLBA president and NMASA Hall of Famer Tony Rogolifoi said the players were split into four groups and went through some batting drills in the cage. Because of the bad condition of the Francisco "Tan Ko" Ballfield, he said participants were not able to use the field.

Rogolifoi said the Little League program is encouraged with the participation of the 26 players, which ranged in age from 13 to 17 years old.

Rogolifoi said at least two more youth baseball clinics will be held the next two Saturdays and he is inviting everyone interested to attend.

The clinic is open for players 13 to 18 years old and will be from 9am to 12pm on Sept. 18 and Sept. 25. Participants are expected to learn the exact same drills the boys who attended the Baseball Confederation of Oceania Regional Training Center underwent in Guam last July.

Rogolifoi said all SLLBA managers and coaches are also invited to attend the clinics, which will be conducted by Little League coaches Syl Ada and Mark Flores as well as himself.

Depending on the turnout, more Saturday clinics may be made available to satisfy the public interest. Players are expected to show up in full baseball attire with all of their equipment.

Pacific Games meeting

In related news, a second mandatory meeting for the CNMI National Baseball Team will be held Saturday, Sept. 18, starting 4pm at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room. The 2011 Pacific Games will be discussed at this meeting. All players and team representatives are urged to attend. For more information, contact Rogolifoi at 288-3515. ***(Walter Sutherland)***

Primos hang on to A Division lead

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Charlie's Primos went on the road and defeated D'Pirates Bar & Grill's Locals, 11-6, last Sept. 6 to keep its lead in the A Division of the Saipan Electronic Dart Association,

Other games last Monday night saw D'Pirates Bar & Grill's CK Destroyers dish out a black eye upset of Buddie's Bar & Grill's Right There!, Naked Fish Boyz knock off Buddie's Bar & Grill's Bud Brothers at home, and Buddie's Bar & Grill's Flying Dartsmen cut down Charlie's Vargas Snipers on the road.

Primos' victory over Locals improved its win-loss record to 62-40, followed by Right There! (59-43), Locals (58-44), and Flying Dartsmen (57-45).

Primos 11, Locals 6

John P. Sablan, Lionel Sanchez, and Allan Cabrera of the visiting Primos won three of the four Singles Regular Cricket matches to jump their team ahead. After both teams won a game of Partners 501 Double In/Double out, Primos Sanchez, Glenn Camacho and Sablan won three of the four Singles Sniper matches. Then both teams won a game of Partners Wild and Crazy Cricket and a pair of Singles 301 Double In/Double Out. Sanchez's win clinched the automatic victory for his Primos before the group tacked on the final Team 1001 Cherry Double In/Double Out match.

CK Destroyers 9, Right There! 8

This matchup went back and forth all the way to the very end. Both teams won a pair of Singles Regular Cricket matches, a game of Partners 501 Double In/Double Out, a pair of Singles Sniper matches, a game of Partners Wild and Crazy Cricket and a pair of Singles 301 Double in/Double Out matches. With the score still locked, it came down to the final Team 1001 Cherry Double In/Double Out match where Romy Intendez, Jeff Barit, Mario Jumalon, and Noel Navarro of visiting CK Destroyers took the win at the end. Notably CK Destroyers' Jumalon may have been the difference maker, winning all five games in which he competed.

Naked Fish Boyz 10, Bud Brothers 7

Peter D.L. Guerrero, Marvin Pangelinan, and James Tudela of the home team Naked Fish Boyz won three of the four Singles Regular Cricket games to give their team an early lead. Then the Naked Fish Boyz swept both games of Partners 501 Double In/Double Out before team members, Jack Guerrero, D.L. Guerrero, Tudela, and Cedric Palacios swept all four Singles Sniper matches and after both teams won a game of Partners Wild and Crazy Cricket, Guerrero, Pangelinan, and Palacios of the Naked Fish Boyz took three of the four Singles 301 Double In/Double Out matches. Palacios' win gave his team the automatic victory and the Naked Fish Boyz went on to take the final Team 1001 Cherry Double In/Double Out match.

Flying Dartsmen 13, Vargas Snipers 4

Wilson Quiban, Patrick Taitano, and Julian Camacho of the visiting Flying Dartsmen won three of the four Singles Regular Cricket matches to start their team out in front. After both teams won a game of Partners 501 Double In/Double Out, Taitano, Camacho, and Ray Sablan of the Flying Dartsmen took three of the four Singles Sniper matches before their teammates swept both games of Partners Wild and Crazy Cricket to seal the automatic victory. Then Flying Dartsmen Quiban, Albert Guevarra, and Camacho won three of the four Singles 301 Double In/Double Out games and their team won the final Team 1001 Cherry Double In/Double Out match.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Masters Basketball Federation of the NMI has set a Sept. 25 deadline for teams interested in taking part in the 40- and 45-and-over masters basketball league.

Deadline for masters caging entries is Sept. 25

Teams interested in taking part in Masters Basketball Federation of the NMI's 40- and 45-and-over masters basketball league only have until Sept. 25 to submit their team rosters and entrance fee.

MBFNMI chair Ray Lizama said checks should be made payable to Masters Basketball Federation of the NMI, P.O. Box 504614 Saipan, M.P. 96950.

He said majority if not all of the MBFNMI masters league games will be played at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium on Saturdays and Sundays.

In an effort to better accommodate all teams, the MBFNMI intends to implement flexible game schedules, meaning teams that are able to play on Saturdays will be scheduled accordingly, with Sundays games to be set aside for teams who are unable to play Saturday games.

In addition, the MBFNMI board proposed to hold some games outdoors at the Garapan Basketball Court, however all scheduled games and playing times will be announced after confirmation by the MBFNMI board and team coaches in their next meeting.

Interested players who are not on a team can still register with any of the MBFNMI board members—Lizama, vice chair Joe Pangelinan, treasurer Yosh Gabaldon, secretary-advisor Scott Norman, and directors Yasu Irinaka, Bruce Berline, Dexter Mendiola, or Arnold Mesa via email at masterbasketball_670@yahoo.com. ***(Walter Sutherland)***

Saipan Tribune
Sports

US wins World basketball championship

AP

USA's Lamar Odom, right, and Chauncey Billups hold the trophy after the final of the World Basketball Championship between Turkey and the USA, Sunday, Sept. 12, 2010, in Istanbul.

By BRIAN MAHONEY
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

ISTANBUL (AP)—Kevin Durant beamed as he listened to his national anthem, which hadn't been played at the end of the basketball world championship in 16 years.

And that was no "B-Team" standing beside him on the center of the medals platform.

It was the best team in the world.

The United States won its first world basketball championship since 1994 on Sunday, beating Turkey 81-64 behind another sensational performance from the tournament MVP.

Durant scored 28 points, setting a record along the way for most in the tournament by a U.S. player. He left the court with 42 seconds remaining and shared a long hug with coach Mike Krzyzewski, who finally won the world title after his previous two attempts ended with bronze medals.

"Our only option was to come out here and get a gold, and it feels really good to bring this back home to the

See US on Page 26

MDX-Monster Energy Drinks' Jorge De Guzman dribbles against Cabalen-Wings Travel's Sam Fernandez during the closing minutes of their game in the UFO caging last Saturday at the JP Center Basketball Court.
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MDX/Monsters hands Cabalen first loss

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

MDX-Moster Energy Drink snapped Cabalen/Wings Travel's winning run, following an 81-70 victory in their masters division game in the 2010 United Filipino Organization Inter-Organizational Reinforced Basketball League last Saturday at the JP Center Basketball Court.

With the win, MDX now tied Cabalen in second place with the two teams holding identical 2-1 records. VisMinda/Kids Cove is in solo first place in the team standings with its 3-0 mark.

Cabalen and MDX had a neck-and-neck battle in the first quarter before the latter started controlling the tempo of the match in the second period behind Jorge De Guzman.

De Guzman drilled 12 of his 22 points in the second canto, turning a slim 19-18 lead to a 43-34 advantage at the break. Helping him give MDX more distance in the second quarter was Sonny Ebuen and Art Trajano, who combined for 10 points in that period.

Jun Tabora, who was held to two points in the first half, picked up his scoring in the second half, firing 10 in the third period to lift MDX to a double-digit lead, 61-51, going into the final quarter.

MDX then did a great job

See MDX/MONSTER on Page 26

Cepeda | Jones | Rabauliman

'3 local hurlers have Major League potential'

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Saipan pitchers Vince Cepeda, Joshua Jones, and Jeremy Rabauliman have the potential to play college ball in the mainland and perhaps even make it to the professional level, according to Baseball Oceania Regional Development officer Ray Brown.

"I have recently witnessed three players that I believe have the ability to play U.S. college baseball or professional baseball," said the former Major League Baseball scout for the Seattle Mariners.

Brown, who watched the three perform during a visit last May on Saipan and in the 7th Micronesian Games in Palau last August, said he contacted Baseball Oceania Regional scout Pat Kelly and Regional MLB San Diego Padres scout Trevor Schumm to inform them of Cepeda, Jones, and Rabauliman's potential.

In addition to the San Diego

See 3 LOCAL on Page 26

Visitors lead PIC Point Break winners

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Off-island riders led the list of top finishers in the 2010 International PIC Point Break Open held at the Pacific Islands Club's Flowrider facility over the weekend.

In the men's open division, Japan's Yu Suzuki took the first place award after earning 19.13 points in the finals. Settling for a runner-up finish was Saipan's A.J. Sablan, who got 18.186 points, while Korea's Jung Doo Kyo completed the Top 3 after carding 17.9 points.

Besides the three winners, 15 other riders joined the men's open division. Twelve made it to the second round after competing in the qualifying rides last Friday. After Friday's rides, qualifiers joined the double-elimination and three-round playoffs. Pairings were then made until only three were left to show their fancy moves to the five judges.

Judges then awarded points based on

See VISITORS on Page 26

A visiting rider shows his fancy moves during the playoff round in the men's open division of the 2010 International PIC Point Break Open held at the Pacific Islands Club's Flowrider facility over the weekend.
ROSELYN B. MONROYO